

6277

TESTIMONY  
BOB MACCA  
CT PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION  
BEFORE THE  
INSURANCE COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 5, 2009

RE: HB-6277

The Connecticut Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) **strongly opposes** HB-6277, which would require employers to extend health insurance benefits to individuals only working 20 hours per week.

In this economy, many of our members are struggling to retain health insurance and other benefits for employees. This bill will significantly increase the cost of health insurance for our members, which will force employers to lay off part-time workers and apprentices.

We are trying to encourage contractors to hire registered apprentices to ensure that we have a pipeline of individuals coming into the industry. In difficult economic times, it is often difficult to provide these opportunities for our young people because they are not in a position to contribute to the company's bottom line. Adding to the cost of hiring and training apprentices will create problems for industry.

We also rely on retired plumbers to work during busy seasons on a part-time basis. These retirees like to keep active and benefit from the increased income to supplement their savings. Many of these people have seen their savings drop significantly and are looking for part-time work. We cannot afford to provide these individuals with part-time employment opportunities if we are required to extend health insurance benefits to them.

We therefore urge you to oppose HB-6277. Thank you.

*CT-PHCC is a not-for-profit trade association that represents the professional plumbing, heating and cooling contractors in the state of Connecticut. CT-PHCC and its members are committed to protecting the health and safety of the public. Contractors who belong to the association have demonstrated reliability and trustworthiness and are licensed by the state of Connecticut.*