



**TESTIMONY
BOB MACCA
LEGISLATIVE CHAIR
CT PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 9, 2009**

Re: HB-6370, An Act Concerning the Middle College System

The Connecticut Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) ***opposes provisions which would shift authority for apprenticeship training from the state Department of Labor to the Middle College System.***

Apprenticeship has long been recognized as the best method for preparing workers for employment in the skilled trades. Unfortunately, it has been increasingly difficult to attract young people to pursue careers in the skilled trades, which generally requires a four or five-year apprenticeship as well as related classroom instruction.

Our members have worked with the state Department of Labor to develop standards for apprenticeship training and to duly register apprentices. We are concerned that transferring authority for apprenticeship training to a new entity with new personnel may undermine the apprenticeship program. This will stifle job growth in our industry - jobs that provide excellent wage and benefit packages for individuals. In order to create a steady supply of skilled tradespersons to meet the demand for workers in the construction trades and benefit our overall economy, Connecticut must continue to encourage and support apprenticeship training.

We therefore caution lawmakers that any proposal which undermines apprenticeship training and technical school training in the skilled trades, cuts off a needed supply of potential workers for our industry.

We therefore urge you to oppose this provision.

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.