

GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 16,  
2010

Senator Colapietro, Representative Shapiro and members of the committee, we represent the United Association of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local Union 777 and the Mechanical Contractors Association of Connecticut. This testimony is in support of SB-133, not as written at this time but in favor of the language which is in the process of being drafted.

As many of you realize this issue of Apprentice to Journeyman ratios has been on the General Law Committee Agenda for many years. During the 2008 session the issue was again before this committee. There was always conflicting testimony from the Union and Non-Union organizations. In order to try to find a solution to this conflict Senator Colapietro asked that one person from each group act as co- chairs and select three others from each faction to form a committee which would compile all available information on this subject and try to come to a decision on what would be best for the industry.

The committee met on numerous occasions and did just that. It took over one year to collect all data from the Labor Department, Technical Schools and any other pertinent information to complete this study.

When the committee was satisfied that it had compiled all information available the following was the unanimous decision of the committee.

For the first Journeyman there shall be one Apprentice, for the second Journeyman there shall be a second Apprentice and for every three Journeyman thereafter there shall be one more Apprentice. I must emphasize that the entire committee agreed that this ratio was the best solution for the industry to ensure that we have properly trained apprentices and therefore the best trained Journeymen in the future. We ask that the members of this committee for their vote to move this bill forward. Remember one of Connecticut's greatest assess is its highly trained workforce. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

If there are any questions please contact us at the numbers below.

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY CAMERON CHAMPLIN PHONE  
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