

**Testimony of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
Committee on Labor and Public Employees  
Tuesday February 23, 2010**

Senator Prague, Representative Ryan, members of the Committee on Labor and Public Employees, my name is Paul Costello, I am here to testify on behalf of the IBEW, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and National Electrical Contractors Association Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee to express our Support of House Bill 5205, An Act Concerning Construction Safety Refresher Training Courses.

The IBEW fully supports the requirement of OSHA 10 training for all workers on construction sites as stated in the current law. The IBEW was active in the writing of the original proposed Bill and amendments since its inception.

The OSHA Outreach Training Program is designed to train workers in the basics of occupational safety and health in construction. The ten hour course raises the awareness of the hazards associated with construction work and is only an orientation to Occupational Safety and Health. Workers must receive additional training on specific hazards associated with their jobs as stated by Federal OSHA. Upon successful completion of the training the individuals are issued a course completion card with a date of completion and they do not have an expiration date.

I have been an OSHA Outreach Trainer since 2001 and have provided training to hundreds of construction workers each year with OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 hour courses. CFR1926 OSHA's Standard for Construction is not updated annually or in its entirety when there is a revision. When there is a revision to the document it only pertains to one of the twenty six subparts. The current reference to Subpart K which covers electrical is based on the 1981 National Electrical Code. The electrical code has been revised nine times since then. This is common throughout the Construction Standard. Many of the standards have not been revised since OSHA became law in 1971.

The majority of the mandatory topics OSHA requires an outreach trainer to present during a class have been included in Section 1 (C) of House Bill 5205. The four hour refresher course for persons that possess an OSHA 10 or OSHA 30 card that has been issued prior will be addressed by the proposed topics. Requiring the trainer to be an authorized OSHA outreach trainer will ensure that the latest changes to the Construction Standards will be covered in the refresher courses. This combined with weekly on-the-job safety training and yearly continuing education requirements that include construction safety specific to the hazards associated with the workers job will make certain that workers receive up to date information. This information is more relevant to workers once they have completed the initial orientation training covered by federal OSHA.

Respectfully,

Paul Costello  
Director of Apprenticeship and Training