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February 23, 2011

I am writing in response to Bill HBO#6385 regarding proposed changes to the state vocational-technical system.

I have worked in the plumbing & heating industry for the past 30 years and have been a licensed plumbing & heating contractor since 1989. During that time I have seen the quality of the graduates of the state tech schools improve significantly.

I currently employ an apprentice who is a 2009 graduate of Grasso Tech. I feel that Grasso Tech did a great job in preparing him to work in the trade.

The schools currently have a program in place that allows the students to work as apprentices while still in school. I found this to be an easy way to find an apprentice that was a good fit for my company.

I feel that the local towns will not be able to run the vocational-technical program as well as it is currently being done. I think this move would be a huge step backwards for a system that has worked hard to improve the vocational-technical trades.

Jack Cawley
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