

General Law Committee

Dear Members of the General Law Committee,

I would like to voice my opposition to Raised Bill 317, An Act Exempting Certain Distribution Warehouse Employees From Professional Licensing Requirements. The new language brings a very broad interpretation to "use or operation of machinery used to hoist or convey products or materials on the premises of such distribution warehouse or on the premises of an affiliate of such distribution warehouse".

As a licensed Elevator Constructor in the State of Connecticut, we install, construct, modernize, repair and maintain not only passenger elevators but also freight elevators, dumbwaiters, vertical platform lifts, and vertical reciprocating lifts that "hoist" and convey material. We have a registered "bona fide" apprenticeship program in the state of Connecticut. Our program is a 4 year program of no less than 144 hours of classroom time per year but also 1700 hours of field experience per year. This brings our program totals to 6800 hours of field experience and 576 classroom hours, and then we MUST pass a test to become an elevator mechanic. We as Elevator Constructors take great pride in doing our best to protect not only the "general riding public" but also everyone who works in a factory, warehouse or any type of building that houses any of the equipment I have listed above.

After the public hearing testimony, we have concerns with exempting the use of conveyors and more importantly, the repair and maintenance. With a broad exemption for all distribution warehouse employees, there is no assurance that the employees will be properly trained on the use and maintenance. When training is left to individual companies, there is no state oversight. The only way for the State of Connecticut to continue to ensure the safety of these employees is to maintain the current requirement that they be licensed.

In closing, I urge you to reject this additional exemption (19) in Raised Bill #317.

Thank You,

Steven A Bruno

Business Manager, IUEC local 91

International Union of Elevator Constructors, Vice President

R-2 License Holder, State of Connecticut # 0450612