

Senator Doyle, Representative Baram and Members of the General Law Committee:

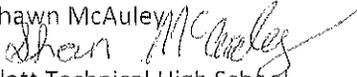
My name is Shawn McAuley and I am currently a senior at Platt Regional Vocational Technical High School of Milford Connecticut, one of 11 Connecticut Technical Trade Schools with a Heating and Air Conditioning program. I reside in Trumbull, CT. As a student, I am learning the ins and outs of the trade as much as possible so that I am able to go out into the real world and work for a real HVACR company. As students, we are the future of America and as far as trades are concerned, fewer individuals are working blue collar jobs every year.

Companies find it increasingly difficult to obtain well trained and well-mannered students that have a passion for working with their hands and becoming technicians. I personally have not had a huge problem getting into the apprenticeship program; however, all of my fellow classmates are being prevented by going out into the workforce and getting hands on experience. Not only are those students becoming extremely frustrated with the whole system, but the school, our instructor, and company owners are all wasting a great deal of time and patience trying to move everything along. The apprenticeship ratio allowance is too low and will not work for anyone. My company had to take one of their own full-time employees off the program in order to put me in it, and I only work several times a month due to the shop time periods that I have scheduled at my school. This is not fair to anyone and something needs to be done to change that.

Without students like ourselves that are motivated and technically skilled, the industry will continue to fall apart and eventually not have enough technicians to support towns and states that need our services. Raising the apprenticeship ratio will help ensure that this important industry is secure in the future with skilled and well-trained technicians that are efficient and fair.

I highly support H.B. No. 5454 and S.B. 268 due to these reasons. Companies and the economy alike will be able to expand and open up jobs for trained individuals that go through technical schools such as ours. The apprenticeship ratio has to increase so time, money, and patience is not wasted.

Thank You,

Shawn McAuley  
  
Platt Technical High School

HVACR