

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

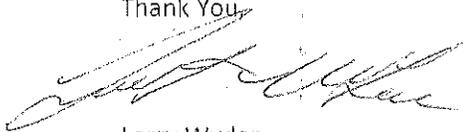
My name is Larry Wydan, I am a senior at Platt Regional Vocational Technical High School in Milford Connecticut, one of 11 Connecticut Technical Trade Schools with an HVAC program. I currently live in Milford, CT. As a student, I am learning the ins and outs of the trade as much as possible so that I am able to go out in the real world and work for a real HVACR company. As students we have big responsibilities because we are the future of America and as far as trades it is a big concern, fewer people are working blue collar jobs every year.

Companies find it hard to find students that are well trained and well-mannered students that have a passion for working with their hands and becoming well trained technicians. I personally had an absolute terrible experience with getting into the apprenticeship program as well as some others students in my shop. Not only are my fellow classmates having extreme frustration 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. Also another problem that we're experiencing is the apprenticeship ratio allowance is too low and will not work for many people. The process takes so ridiculously long that employers would be turned off by it and not want to hire anybody for the Work Base Learning Program.

Without students like ourselves that are motivated to apply their technical skills in a workplace, the industry would fall apart and eventually not have enough technicians to support states and towns that need our technical abilities. Raising the ratio will help ensure that this industry is secure in the near future with well trained technicians that are efficient and reasonable.

I highly support H.B. No. 5454 and S.B. 268 due to many reasons. The economy is clearly not the best but with these programs and technical schools it will expand the economy and open up jobs for trained individuals. The apprenticeship ratio has to increase so time, money, and patience will be granted.

Thank You



Larry Wydan

Platt Regional Vocational Technical High School

HVACR