



Connecticut Chapter

Testimony by Chris Syrek, Vice President of  
Associated Builders & Contractors

**Before the General Law Committee on March 11, 2014**

**SB 412 An Act Concerning Enforcement of Certain Occupational Licensing Statutes**

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Good afternoon, my name is Chris Syrek; I am the Vice President of Associated Builders and Contractors of Connecticut (CT ABC). CT ABC is a statewide trade association of almost 200 members that represents merit shop contractors.

CT ABC supports the intent of SB 412 – An Act Concerning Enforcement of Certain Occupational Licensing Statutes. The purpose of this legislation has always been about catching the “bad actors” and those that willfully violate the law. Workers that don’t have the proper licenses and are not trained and certified to perform their work, should face the appropriate penalties. It is a potential safety hazard and liability for workers that have not obtained their licenses to be working on certain jobsites.

It is also important that quality contractors, who do obey the law, are not caught in the “wide net” that this legislation might cause. The majority of contractors take immense pride in complying with all the laws and regulations from everything from prevailing wage reporting to licensing and safety protocols. It would be unfair for those who operate their businesses in a legal manner to be subject to the same penalties of contractors who willfully violate the law.

CT ABC would like to see this bill reviewed and revised, before we offer our full support. CT ABC is supportive of most aspects of the bill, however certain language risks unfairly punishing contractors who abide by the rules.

It is in the best interest of the construction industry that all parties involved work together with the General Law Committee to make sure this legislation gets done the right way, and that there are no unintended consequences in the bill that could be harmful to honest and qualified contractors.