

**TESTIMONY OF GLENN MARSHALL, BUSINESS MANAGER OF CARPENTERS LOCAL 210, RAISED BILL 412 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENFORCEMENT OF CERTAIN OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING STATUTES**

Good Afternoon Senator Doyle, Representative Baram and members of the General Law Committee. My name is Glenn Marshall and I am a Business Manager for the New England Regional Council of Carpenters in Connecticut representing thousands of carpenters. I am here today to testify in opposition to **Raised Bill 412 An Act Concerning The Enforcement Of Certain Occupational Licensing Statutes** as it is currently written.

Connecticut first enacted licensing laws starting in 1967 to protect the general public's safety; first for plumbers and electricians and over the following decades for other crafts, such as the sheetmetal workers and glaziers. In fact, we are one of the only states that has licensing for glaziers. As more and more trades have attained licenses we have seen a rise in jurisdictional problems on jobsites. Some trades are using their licensed status as a means to grab work and claim jurisdiction from non-licensed crafts such as the carpenters. There are many examples on record and a few years ago one of our contractors spent in excess of one-hundred thousand dollars defending themselves.

There are many conflicts and issues with the way this bill is currently written, and I will give a few examples.

- Cease work orders for individuals who perform work without a license is a problem because there are many "grey areas" or "overlap" of work between licensed and non-licensed crafts.
- The proposed language states that either the commissioner or the board can either jointly or separately issue a cease work order. There is a potential conflict if the commissioner and the board are in disagreement as to whether a violation has occurred or not. Who makes the final determination? I believe that the commissioner should make the final decision, with the advice of the Board for the sake of consistency. The board members terms, by statute, expire every four years which can lead to turnover and inconsistent

decisions being rendered and although the commissioner's term may be short as well, they rely on the recommendations of their managers, who have an historical, institutional knowledge of the industry. As an ex-commissioner I can attest to this myself.

Also, "negligently" is being added to "willfully" to determine someone's culpability of working without a license. Willful is a much higher standard than negligent so it can't be both. We prefer to see it left as just willful as someone can make an honest mistake.

In closing, we would be supportive of more enforcement agents being added to help a depleted staff enforce the current licensing laws, but we are opposed to the changes that are in this bill as written.

We look forward to working with the committee on substitute language to address our concerns and others in the industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.