



TESTIMONY  
JACK CAWLEY  
PRESIDENT  
CT PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION  
BEFORE THE  
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE  
MARCH 11, 2014

The Connecticut Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) strongly supports SB-412. **An Act Concerning the Enforcement of Certain Occupational Licensing Statutes.**

SB-412 will allow the state Department of Consumer Protection and the occupational trades appropriate examining boards to vigorously enforce the state's occupational licensing laws, including the ability to shut down a work site for violations.

Strong and proper enforcement of state licensing laws relative to plumbing and piping work is paramount. Our strong support for this bill is based upon safety concerns. Unlicensed individuals are not prepared for many of the issues that trained and licensed Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors face on the job each day. When you are working with natural and propane gas, electricity and fuel oil you must have the training and qualifications on how to handle these issues when they arise. Also, it is important that they are educated on the proper disposal of sewage and the dangers of drinking water contamination.

Allowing unlicensed contractors to operate in Connecticut hurts our entire industry by exposing workers and consumers to potentially unsafe situations. In addition, apprentices, who are supposed to be given credit for hours worked on the job, are unfairly penalized by unscrupulous contractors who often fail to register them as apprentices.

We therefore urge support for this bill, which would enhance enforcement of the state's occupational licensing laws. **CT-PHCC urges lawmakers to approve SB-412.**

*CT-PHCC is a not-for-profit trade association that represents the professional plumbing, heating and cooling contractors in the state of Connecticut. CT-PHCC and its members are committed to protecting the health and safety of the public. Contractors who belong to the association have demonstrated reliability and trustworthiness and are licensed by the state of Connecticut.*