

HB 6806

In favor of contractor consumer protection bill

Dear Rep. Baram, Sen. Leone and distinguished members of the General Law Committee. I am speaking today on behalf of this bill offering the residents of CT security in hiring reputable contractors.

The state of CT requires various licensing for the everyday person for everything from owning a car, a dog, for fishing. Most of our service contractors are also required to hold a license, such as electricians and plumbers. Many of CT's residents are under the false assumption that home improvement contractors are also held to the very same requirements. However, those same constituents would be surprised to know that building contractors are only required to register their businesses with the State.

A persons home or place of business (that they own) are most often the largest valuable asset they have and yet often find themselves with no recourse when faced with poor performance by a contractor – many times leaving them in a worse situation than they were when they hired said contractor.

I know many contractors personally who are very reputable and I depend on their guidance and suggestions when hiring another contractor to do a job. Recently, I had a disturbing experience at my place of work (a non-profit business) when a contractor was hired by another party, so as the tenant I had no choice in who was hired. I was left holding the pieces of a faulty roof job that created more damage to the building, furnishings and carpeting that did not exist before. Afterwards it was discovered that this contractor did not have the proper credentials or experience to handle the job, he was simply the lowest bidder. It was also discovered that the insurance that he held was nowhere close to covering the damage and was far below the original bid for the job and certainly could not cover the overages.

All contractors should be required to not only be licensed like their peers (plumbing and electrical), but hold insurance for 1M in damages. This insurance coverage would hold no hardship for the contractor as it is a very small figure to pay for the security of your clients and yourself as the contractor.

This bill would also require a one-time only test in order to be licensed and is in keeping with all contractors remaining professional and their clients to feel confident when hiring workers for their most valued of assets. Bringing in new residents to our State this bill can only be viewed as an asset to what CT has to offer for their investment in a new home.

I urge you to vote for this important consumer protection bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Paige Miglio
Milford, CT