

Sheet Metal Workers' International Association

Local Union



No. Forty

Hartford, New Haven, Middlesex, Tolland, Windham, New London Counties, State of Connecticut and Fisher's Island, State of N.Y.

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Raised Bill 593 AN ACT CONCERNING SEVERE MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENT AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE.

January 29, 2015

Honorable Senator Winfield, Honorable Representative Tercyak and esteemed members of the Labor Committee,

Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union 40 submits this letter in support of the concept in Raised Bill 593 AN ACT CONCERNING SEVERE MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENT AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE.

Local 40 believes that this bill is a good first step in providing much needed protection for first responders who often find themselves harmed by the very nature of their work in ways that may or may not manifest physically.

However we feel that this bill should also include workers in the construction industry who may find themselves in a similar situation due to circumstances on a jobsite or in a production facility.

Several recent events on construction sites have produced attention grabbing headlines about worker fatalities, but little or no attention is given to the survivors of these accidents who have been through and seen so much as a result. These workers deserve the same protection for a mental injury as they do for a physical injury.

While a great effort is put into worker safety on construction sites and our goal should be for zero accidents, this is not a reality that we will see anytime soon. Construction schedules continue to be pushed ever faster and projects become more and more complex and demanding of those who actually perform the work.

Again we would like to express our support of this legislation but urge the committee members to consider including construction workers for protection under this bill.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Zeedyk'.

Jeremy Zeedyk
Business Representative
Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union 40