

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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TESTIMONY of
Jeremy Zeedyk
Business Representative
SMART Local Union 40

February 26, 2015

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

The Sheet Metal Air Rail and Transportation (SMART) International Union Local 40 submits this testimony in support of: S.B. No. 910 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF THE HISTORY OF THE WORKER IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

SMART Local 40 is a building and construction trades and production union which represents over 1000 working families who are employed by approximately 50 signatory construction contractors constructing, renovating and testing buildings throughout Connecticut and the region, many of which are State of Connecticut projects. We are one of the 14 unions commonly referred to as the "Building Trades".

Our great nation has a varied and often colorful history. Local 40 strongly believes that all citizens should know or at least have access to all the components of this history, and we should not shy away from any part of it, whether viewed as "good" or "bad".

The United States of America did not become the nation that it is today without the major role that workers played. Because of their tenacity, hard work and sacrifice we have been, and will continue to be, a leader on the world stage.

Students in Connecticut's schools should be given the opportunity to learn about this important chapter in our history and teachers should be afforded the ability to incorporate this subject matter into their classrooms if they so choose.

SMART Local 40 looks forward to continuing this discussion with the committee and offering input and solutions to this and other issues concerning the construction industry.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Jeremy Zeedyk in black ink.

Jeremy Zeedyk
Business Representative
SMART Union Local 40