



Connecticut Chapter

Testimony by Chris Syrek, President of
Associated Builders & Contractors

Before the Program Review and Investigations Committee on February 29, 2016

**SB 215 – An Act Concerning Apprenticeship Expansion Based on a Program
Review and Investigations Committee Study**

Good afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Carpino and Members of the Committee, my name is Chris Syrek; I am the President of Associated Builders and Contractors of Connecticut (CT ABC). CT ABC is a statewide trade association of almost 200 members that represents merit shop contractors. I appreciate the opportunity to speak before the committee today on their behalf.

CT ABC was appreciative of the opportunity to participate in the study that the Program Review and Investigations Committee conducted last year. We hope to be involved in similar dialogue going forward as we try to promote apprenticeship within the trades. That being said, CT ABC and our members have some concerns about this bill as currently drafted. While there could certainly be small improvements made to better promote apprenticeship training and overseeing the process, CT ABC does not believe that the system is currently broken. The language in this bill seems overly ambiguous, and appears to allow the Department of Labor to completely overhaul the apprenticeship requirements for both on the job training and classroom hours. We would hope that the Program Review and Investigations Committee as well as the full state legislature would approach this process with caution, and involve all industry groups that might be affected.

As an association of contractors, many of whom have apprenticeship programs, CT ABC is certainly open to discussion of this very important issue. Workforce shortage in the trades is a serious problem, and we are willing and ready to work with the State of Connecticut as well as other industry stakeholders to encourage more people to pursue careers in construction.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Christopher Syrek
President, Associated Builders and Contractors