



**Corporate Office**

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Testimony in Support of S.B. 182

General Law Committee

Public Hearing – February 27, 2020

To whom it may concern,

I have been in the residential HVAC industry in Connecticut since 1983 (37 years), I have been challenged with the recruiting and training of Connecticut tradesmen and abiding within the trade licensing laws and guidelines.

We are a 100% residential service provider, and have seen many willing candidates come through our doors looking to get into the trades. But unfortunately our hands are tied due to the current laws in Connecticut. We just cannot hire enough tradesmen for the work that needs to be done. In many states in this is a very simple process, Connecticut is not one of them. If there was a way to speed up the process, by changes the requirements and restrictions for apprentices, and entry level licensures, this would take a huge burden off the demand of work out there.

We currently work with the CT Department of Labor with our apprenticeship program. We have both D2 and S10 and S2 apprentices working within our company.

When we hire a new apprentice, we register/enroll them with the Department of Labor D2 apprenticeship program, they then perform two years of on the job training, then take the D2 license exam, they pass they are now a licensed D2 Tradesmen.

At the point of them wanting to advance their career, by either upgrading to the S10 or S2 apprenticeship program, he or she must them partake in another year or to respectively of on the job training.

Our challenge is that when the D2 licensed mechanic is enrolled in the S10 or S2 apprentice program, he as a licensed D2 tradesmen cannot be counted towards the count of our existing D2 trades person, limiting the hire of another D2 apprentice.

Section 14 would resolve this issue for us and allow our company to count this already licensed tradesmen towards hiring another apprentice.

We are consistently struggling to find and hire critically needed tradesmen in Connecticut, and again, although we get many inquiries out of the graduating students, I cannot consider them due to the restrictions that have been set forth.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Stephen Birch

General Manager

Aiello Home Services