

Testimony in Support of S.B. 182
General Law Committee
Public Hearing – February 27, 2020

Dear Distinguished Members of the General Law Committee:

My name is Mark Strickland and I am writing to you on behalf of Precision Mechanical in Manchester CT. I wish to provide you with written testimony in support of S.B. 182. We are a fairly new up and coming business of 11 employees. I would like to convey interest and express the overall need in our field for a modification of the apprenticeship program.

The HVAC industry is currently going thru a shortage of qualified technicians in our workforce. We need the ability to get more young people enrolled into the program and at the same time allow our more seasoned technicians to better themselves. I believe the current ratio of journeymen to apprentice needs to be updated and/or broadened to accommodate a fast track approach to skilled on the job training.

I sympathize with the young people looking for experience in the HVAC trade. We receive numerous inquiries weekly from students in trade school with no experience. My hands are tied due to the current training ratio and I have no choice but to turn them away. We must encourage more young people to become skilled tradesmen as an alternative to a cookie cutter Associate Degree in a college setting that often leads to long term student debt with minimal earning potential. Section 14 would resolve this issue and would allow our company to count all of our employees toward the required Journey Person to Apprentice Ratio.

I would like to thank the committee for consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Mark Strickland
Owner