

Testimony on SB 181

House State and Federal Affairs Committee

Michele Roberts-Bauer, Heart of America Chapter of Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc.

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

I represent over 200 construction and construction-related firms across Missouri and Kansas and am registered as a lobbyist with the State of Kansas. Our members are committed to safety and workforce development. I wanted to speak today about some concerns on the impact of the proposed legislation SB 181 The Elevator Safety Act

I have some questions and concerns about the unintended consequences of the proposed legislation.

1. Clarity on qualifications and grandfathering requirements to obtain a license
2. Elevator Safety Board composition
3. Allowing local jurisdictions to have different and additional licensing and inspection requirements

Clarity on Qualifications and Grandfathering Requirements to Obtain a License

I would anticipate that the goal is to have some combination of on-the-job work experience and testing to document knowledge attainment for the testing. We would request that the National Association of Elevator Contractors (NAEC) CAT and CET certification exams be recognized as important elements for that program.

What is the plan for grandfathering those who have safely and productively worked in the industry prior to this requirement? It would be detrimental to the men and women who have made careers in the industry to suddenly be unable to do so. Given the current workforce shortage facing the construction industry, it would also negatively impact projects and communities when the workforce is further limited.

Elevator Safety Board Composition

For the elevator safety board, we would request that specific seats be designated for a conveyance installer so the board can benefit from their firsthand technical experience.

Allowing Local Jurisdictions to Have Different and Additional Licensing and Inspection Requirements

The current language specifically allows local jurisdictions to have additional licensing requirements. We would request that that not be the case. If an individual has been licensed in the state of Kansas, that should qualify them to work anywhere in the state of Kansas. Creating a system of different licenses and requirements for different jurisdictions within our state will not only be an administrative nightmare that is guaranteed to drive up costs for consumers, but more importantly can limit the ability of well-qualified licensed professionals to earn a living in Kansas. The process of installing or working on an elevator does not change with county or city lines. This will create an unnecessary barrier if an individual is unable to work on their company's next project because they do not have a current license in that jurisdiction.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter. We are happy to connect any of the committee members with construction executives and or journeyman elevator technicians to help answer any specific technical questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Roberts-Bauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail at the end.

Michele Roberts-Bauer

President

Associated Builders & Contractors, Inc. Heart of America Chapter.