

**J.W. CUMMINS**

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**Before The**

**Professional Licensure Committee**

**Pennsylvania House of Representatives**

**Public Hearing Regarding**

**House Bill #1357**

**State Licensure of Plumbers**

**Testimony Of**

**JOHN W. CUMMINS**

**PRESIDENT**

**J.W. CUMMINS PLUMBING INC.**

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Dear Chairwoman Harhart and Chairman Readshaw and the members of the Professional Licensure Committee,

My name is John W. Cummins I own and operate J.W. Cummins Plumbing Inc. located in Freedom, Pennsylvania. I have operated my business for 25 years. I am also the President of AMPAC, which is the Associated Master Plumber of Allegheny County. AMPAC operates a plumbing school which currently enrolls 230 apprentices in our apprenticeship program. This apprenticeship is a 4-year program and the students are required to obtain 576 passing school hours in conjunction with 8,000 working hours to be eligible for the Allegheny County Journeymen plumber's exam. I also hold a chair on the Allegheny County Plumbing Advisory Board as one of two master plumbers of record. I speak for over 2,000 Allegheny County master plumbers and journeymen. I have come here today as a concerned business owner and resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in seeking support for the passing of house bill #1357.

In Allegheny county, I possess a master plumbers license. I also have certifications in ASSE backflow prevention, DOT gas line installation, and NASSCO sewer line inspection. All of these certifications are required to perform work in the communities in which I service. However, there is no statewide plumbing license or requirements outside of a handful of communities at this time to protect the consumers in the state of Pennsylvania. Having no regulations requiring education and certified plumbers endangers the Commonwealth and the residents of Pennsylvania as a whole. Our responsibilities as certified plumbers are to provide safe drinking water to all consumers as well as to protect the environment to dispose of waste in a safe and ethical

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manner. The Mantra of the plumbing trade has always been, "PLUMBERS PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF THE NATION".

Under this proposed legislation the revenue that will be generated will be a financial influx to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the additional income can supplement other government programs.

The neighboring states require mandatory state licenses with continuing education annually to conduct plumbing in their communities. For example, Ohio plumbers whom have met their state requirements can come into the majority of counties in the Commonwealth and perform work. However, I am not permitted to go into another state due to the lack of a nonexistent state licensing in Pennsylvania, unless I have taken that states certification and earned their license. I am unable to reciprocate with the surrounding states. It is very difficult to compete in today's ever tightening job market with states that already have this type of legislation as a requirement to perform plumbing in their state. It would level the playing field if the state of Pennsylvania would implement a state license.

The protection to the residents of the Commonwealth by having a state license will ensure that properly trained and educated individuals will be installing and maintaining the plumbing systems in our state. I support the grandfather clause being implemented to ensure that the current plumbers in our state are able to continue as they have in the past, and give them the opportunity to acquire the continuing education that will be needed to meet the requirements of a state license.

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In closing, I'm here today asking for your support in the passing of house bill #1357. This bill will protect the communities in the Commonwealth as well as leveling the field for business owners like myself, and ensure the safety of the environment.

Sincerely,

John W. Cummins