

## HB22-1346 Electrician Plumber Licensing Apprentice Ratio

Thursday, April 14, 2022

House Business Affairs & Labor 1:30 pm | Room 0112

Written Testimony: Oppose

Thank you, Mister Chair and members of the committee. My name is Matt Gorenc and I am government affairs manager at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation.

I submit this testimony on behalf of the Chamber to express our opposition to House Bill 1346.

Our metro area is seeing explosive growth, and many qualified workers are flocking to our state for its world-class amenities. As construction companies look to respond to this massive growth, swathes of new development have sprinkled the Denver Metro area. But despite all this new development, we still do not have enough housing inventory to support demand. Simultaneously, our nation is experiencing soaring inflation not seen in forty years and our economy is recovering from a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic.

All the while, this bill serves to exacerbate the housing crisis, inflation, and supply chain issues. Currently, our plumbers and electricians are well-trained and very capable professionals who serve a vital role and keep our households and businesses running. Modifying the supervisor-to-apprentice ratio is an unneeded burden on the professions and is simply unnecessary to produce qualified plumbing and electrician professionals. Plumbers are facing some of the worst supply chain problems, and this is causing ripple effects throughout our economy, worsening inflation and delaying vital work to bring more housing stock to market. Our area's consumers deserve a plethora of professionals to turn to when they need plumbing and electrical work done.

This bill will create unnecessary training bottlenecks at a time when our economy needs skilled workers to fill record-high job vacancies. There is little research that shows that modifying the supervisor-to-apprentice ratio will produce more qualified professionals, but what we do know is that it will hinder our ability to fill job vacancies, will worsen inflation, and will create more complications for a training regimen which works well in its current iteration. In other words, if it isn't broken, don't try to fix it.

We urge the members of this committee to vote no on this bill.