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Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 181
John J. Federico: The Federico // Duerst Consulting Group
House Federal & State Affairs Committee
January 19, 2022

Chairman Barker and Members of the House Federal & State Affairs Committee,

My name is John Federico, **Federico // Duerst Consulting Group** and I appear in support of SB181 on behalf of the EIWPF (Elevator Industry Work Preservation Fund).

Like many other professions in the construction field, elevator installation, repair, and maintenance workers can be hurt or injured on the job. Unmaintained elevators and escalators can be a potential risk for the general public and the mechanics who work on this complex equipment.

Currently, Kansas has **no safety requirement for the inspection of elevators and no requirement for those who install, maintain, or repair elevators to be trained or licensed. In fact, Kansas is one of only 2 states in the country that has not adopted a statewide safety code for elevators** and escalators and is one of only 14 states that doesn't require industry licensure as a mechanism to protect both workers and the general public. (

The Legislature heard a similar bill in 2016. We have worked extensively with various groups to understand their opposition and address their concerns. As a result, industries that are highly regulated and have restricted use elevators have been exempted. Unfunded local mandates and state preemption have been eliminated. The previous requirement for applicants for licensure to undergo a criminal history record check has been eliminated, as have criminal penalties for non-compliance.

Put simply, SB181 requires elevators to have annual safety inspections and requires those industry professionals who install, maintain, or repair elevators to be licensed at minimal cost. It **strikes middle ground** by providing enough statutory direction to the State Fire Marshal's office while giving the agency control over day-to-day implementation and enforcement of the act. It also allows local units of government to have standards more stringent than SB181 requires.

An Advisory Board of stakeholders and industry subject matter experts will provide input for the establishment and annual review of rules and regulations that must follow generally accepted national engineering standards and practices.

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SB181 is common sense policy that **doesn't excessively grow government or impose overly burdensome or costly requirements upon industry personnel or building owners**. Licensing is a common requirement in professions that affect worker safety and health, and usually involves both education and documented work experience or passing a written exam. For building owners, the costs of registration are minimal, and the required annual inspection would be included in their existing elevator maintenance agreements. SB181 provides a **phased-in approach** for both elevator registration and inspections, thus providing both building owners and the State Fire Marshal time necessary to comply with the provisions of the act.

In contrast to other states who mandate that annual safety inspections be a function of state government, SB181 allows for inspections to be performed by licensed industry experts, thus **providing an opportunity to create stable and good-paying jobs in Kansas**.

While the licensing, inspection, and permitting fees will be established in rules and regulations with the input of industry experts, the statutory fee caps far exceed the anticipated costs of administering the program. As such, this is a **revenue neutral** policy for the State of Kansas.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of SB181 and would respectfully ask for your consideration.

I would be happy to stand for questions.

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