

## Testimony in Support of House Bill 4719

Chairman Chan, Chairman Payano, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 4719. My name is Ryan Williams, and I appreciate the Committee's time and consideration of this important legislation.

I am a second generation Massachusetts contractor and operate our family business, 128 Plumbing, Heating, Cooling and Electric which has been in business for 33 years. We service homeowners and businesses across the Commonwealth. I have spent my entire career in the trades, working directly with the systems that heat, air condition, and ventilate our buildings and homes.

In addition, I currently serve as a Vice President on the Board of the Air Conditioning Contractors Association of New England. My perspective today reflects both hands on operational experience and industry level involvement across Massachusetts.

Massachusetts has long been a leader in the nation. Amongst many areas, we lead in innovation and energy. We are known for setting standards, and we continue to lead the country in clean energy policy, energy efficiency programs, and sustainable building practices. Our energy initiatives are among the best in the nation and are designed to deliver meaningful benefits to consumers, businesses, and communities.

Despite these great effort Massachusetts does not currently have a standardized HVAC license for residential and light commercial. A license to carry these initiatives forward. HVAC systems require permits, inspections, and compliance with building codes, yet there is no dedicated license to establish consistent statewide accountability.

This gap becomes more significant as heat pumps continue to grow through our energy programs, and consumers hand their trust to these selected contractors with no standard practice.

What I have observed in my experience is that without standardization, consumers can experience improper and unsafe outcomes. Improperly serviced, designed or installed systems can lead to higher energy bills, premature failure or unsafe conditions.

These issues are preventable, yet without a clear supervisory standard, accountability is unclear and enforcement is unknown. As new technologies and refrigerants enter the market, the need for qualified supervision and uniform expectations becomes even more critical.

The Board of Building Regulations and Standards already provides a strong regulatory foundation, and House Bill 4719 folds directly into it. This legislation does not create new permitting requirements, does not add cost to the Commonwealth, and does not infringe on other trades. It simply recognizes HVAC as a specialized trade and aligns it with existing construction supervisor licensing frameworks already in place.

I respectfully urge the Committee to report House Bill 4719 favorably. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.