

# NEW JERSEY STATE AFL-CIO

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June 7, 2012

Dear Members of the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee:

### Re: Please Support S-612 (Sweeney) Concerns Elevator Contractors Licensing

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO supports S-612 and respectfully asks for your support. This legislation seeks to implement recommendations made by the report "Death and Injuries Involving Elevators and Escalators" issued by the Center to Protect Workers Rights whose mission it is to improve safety and health in the construction industry. The research project was funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

In summary, there are approximately 30 fatalities and over 17,000 serious injuries annually involving elevators and escalators. Ninety percent of those deaths are from elevators and almost half of those deaths are of workers servicing elevators.

One of the main recommendations made in that report was to require that employers only use qualified workers for elevator repair and maintenance. However, current New Jersey law does not require that workers be licensed to do this. This legislation would require workers that install, construct or service and repair as well as test or maintain elevators, escalators and moving walkways to be performed by licensed professionals that have met the skill, experience and knowledge based requirements.

We believe this is a common sense initiative that will help insure that only the best workers are performing these critical jobs where the public and the workers safety is in jeopardy. Dozens of other professions are regulated by the State, yet this extremely important occupation is not. We respectfully ask this committee to take a step forward in protecting the safety of workers and the general public by voting in support of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Charles Wowkanech  
President

Laurel Brennan  
Secretary-Treasurer

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