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Testimony of Representative Dan Shagoury in support of
**LD 1226, An Act to Protect Consumers by Licensing Residential
Building Contractors**
Before the Housing and Economic Development Committee

Good afternoon, Senator Curry, Representative Gere and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development. I am Representative Dan Shagoury, and I represent House District 55 - the communities of Hallowell, Manchester and West Gardiner. I am pleased to speak in support of **LD 1226, An Act to Protect Consumers by Licensing Residential Building Contractors**.

We license different professions for the protection of consumers. Building contractors are a critical part of our economy, and if you have a house you have almost certainly hired a contractor – either to build or repair/renovate it. You hire them because you need their expertise and experience. Just like a plumber or an electrician, or a doctor or a dentist for that matter, you need to know you can trust them.

Concerning plumbers, electricians, doctors and lawyers, you feel they have a minimum level of competency because they have a license. You also have someone to turn to if they betray your trust. If they handle things badly you can complain to their licensing authority, and maybe even get their license to practice their trade revoked. You don't have that sort of recourse with a contractor. There is no assumption of competence and no easy recourse.

I was alerted to just how badly things can go with a contractor by a constituent of mine, Vicki Dill. She really wanted to be here today but had a conflict she couldn't get out of, so I will take this opportunity to read you her testimony.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope you will support this bill.