

Grant Provost  
Ironworkers Local 7

Good Morning Senator Rafferty, Representative Sylvester and esteemed members of the Labor and Housing Committee. My name is Grant Provost, I am the Business Agent for Ironworkers Local 7 as well as a Maine State AFL-CIO Executive Board Member. I come before you today in favor of LD 469 An Act to Ensure Safety Across Maine's Construction Industry.

Requiring OSHA 10 will help to protect thousands of employees working in the construction industry. On the job safety is one of the very first things we teach our Apprentices at Local 7 and every Apprentice has an OSHA 10 course under their belt before going to work. Upon Apprenticeship Graduation all Apprentices have completed an OSHA 30 course, have a rigging certification, and crane and signal person certification. The Bureau of Labor Statistics puts Structural Ironworkers in the 8th most dangerous job in the United States, we have a responsibility to train our people in safety before they put one foot on the jobsite. While Ironworkers Local 7 adheres to strict safety standards others do not and that is the precise reason OSHA 10 should be mandated. Before any worker with little to no experience steps on to a jobsite they need to be taught the basics of how to keep not only themselves safe but others as well. As highlighted in the attached information taken directly from the OSHA website, there are not only huge worker benefits but industry benefits as well. It is all of our responsibilities here, to make Mainers places of employment as safe as possible and mandating OSHA 10 is an excellent step. I urge the committee to vote out to pass and move this key piece of legislation along. Thank you I appreciate your time today

Since 1971, OSHA workplace safety training has helped companies protect workers and avoid costly legal proceedings. Today, countless workers continue to benefit from OSHA10 courses. The OSHA 10 hour safety course helps workers identify, avoid, and correct on-the-job hazards. Workers learn about the crucial Focus Four hazards, and how to protect their legal rights. While not mandatory in all states, the OSHA 10 hour program is an affordable way to foster a culture of workplace safety.

Below is from OSHA Site:

Through OSHA 10 hour training, workers learn how to avoid electrical, chemical, and mechanical dangers they may not know existed. A study of the economic and social benefits of OSHA10 produced several key findings:

- Reduced workplace accidents from OSHA10 courses helps workers, companies, and taxpayers save money.
- The complete benefits of an OSHA10 program can extend far beyond economic measures.
- OSHA 10 hour general industry safety programs have set a new standard for mandatory health and safety training programs.

As a business owner or manager, you may wonder how effective a 10-hour course can be. While short, the OSHA10 program is taught by industry experts who cover an array of topics and provide tailored training to fit your workers' needs. For example, if you work in the electrical industry, OSHA instructors can focus on LOTO training and provide hands-on training on arc flash prevention. Training also helps workers become proactive in asking employers about safety practices before performing hazardous tasks.