

Comments of Christina Sears

as prepared for the

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Hearing

March 26, 2025

in SUPPORT of HB1162 -- Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, or Refrigeration Contractors - Equipment Sales

Good afternoon Chair Feldman and members of the Committee; my name is Christina Sears, and I am a homeowner in Harford County, where I live with my six children. I work as a server in a restaurant, I'm not a contractor, but I have been impacted personally by unlicensed contractors conducting a bad furnace installation, and I think it is important to share my story.

In JANUARY, I paid a contractor to replace my furnace; I thought I was getting a good deal for the price of \$6,500. However, after I paid him, he never completed the installation, and I later found out the equipment was installed improperly as well as not being the right size for my home.

I tried to contact him to fix the problem, but I stopped getting any responses. In speaking with other contractors, I later learned he installed the wrong equipment that was not suited for my single family home and now I have to pay another contractor even more to install a new furnace to fix the problem. After reaching out to the county permit office and seeing that there was nothing they could or would do for these unlicensed contractors other than maybe sending a letter to their address I knew that more just had to be done to try to address the situation.

Someone like that, without a license, should not be able to buy a furnace and install it in my home. Most people don't know how important it is to check the contractor's license before paying, and they trust contractors to do the right thing. I did learn the information about how to find out proper licensing info to make sure this does not happen to me again and I hope this can help so many other people as well.

I support the bill HB1162 because I think it can help prevent unlicensed contractors from getting access to equipment and taking advantage of people. Thank you for the chance to share my story.