Testimony of
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On Behalf of the
American Industrial Hygiene Association® (AIHA)
Before the
Louisiana State Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs Committee
Expressing Concern with Provisions of House Bill 748 That Would Limit the Ability of Individuals Possessing a Professional Designation to Use the Term “Certified” in Their Title
May 9, 2018
Good morning Chairman Martiny and Members of the Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs Committee. My name is Benjamin Jelin, I live in New Orleans, am a member of the American Industrial Hygiene Association® (AIHA), and am here to express concerns with certain provisions of House Bill 748 that would limit the ability of individuals possessing a professional designation to use the term “certified” in their title. First, a bit of background on AIHA:

Founded in 1939, AIHA members are the guardians of workplace safety, applying science to anticipate, identify, and solve health and safety problems. Industrial hygienists unite all segments of a company behind the common goals of health and safety. AIHA has a strong grassroots presence in Louisiana, with more than 100 members and two Local Sections that cover the State.

More than half of AIHA’s members have earned the Certified Industrial Hygienist® (CIH) designation, and AIHA has chosen to support this professional designation because our members, and the businesses and organizations they work for, see its value to consumers and the market alike.
AIHA is concerned that, as currently drafted, certain provisions of House Bill 748 would prohibit individuals possessing a certification from a voluntary program from using the term “certified” as a title. Such provisions would harm the ability of individuals who have earned a voluntary professional designation from nonprofit organizations to stand out and clearly communicate their enhanced value to businesses, governments, and consumers.

AIHA understands that protecting public health and safety while preserving economic competitiveness requires a delicate, thoughtful balance, and to be clear, AIHA does not believe that every professional should be required to obtain a CIH. Rather, those professionals who seek to stand out and clearly communicate their enhanced value should have the opportunity to do so through this distinction, which is itself a product of the supply and demand marketplace.

To protect designations, such as the CIH, AIHA recommends deleting the provisions of this bill that would prohibit individuals possessing a certification from a voluntary program from using the term “certified” as a title.
On behalf of AIHA, I thank you for providing me with the time to testify today. We stand ready to help you as this bill moves forward. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.