

[Date]

Representative Steve Marino  
S-788 House Office Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Marino;

As an affected Michigander, I urge you to support HB 4578 to promote women participants in labor job training and workforce development. Women will not achieve real equity in the trades if we do not gain new workers, retain our experienced workers, and support them in advancing on the job and within their unions.

By coming together, we can work to provide support, skill sharing and encouragement to one another as well as build a more powerful voice for addressing the external issues that shorten women's careers in the industry. Over the decades that women have fought for equal opportunity to build lasting careers in the construction industry, there have been many successful strategies. Including the establishment of organizations such as Chicago Women in Trades and a local program Women in Skilled Trades through the Women's Center of Greater Lansing, and the goal of these are to provide a wealth of resources to tradeswomen through mentorship programs, multi-craft support groups, and advocating with their unions, employers, and government agencies for policies and practices that support women's access to and longevity in trades careers.

By promoting women in trades, women in Michigan will benefit. Developing a process that provides a fair and equitable access to help women explore, train and secure employment in nontraditional occupations, like the skilled trades, is essential.

It is not political to want better work lives for women and their families. Political party preferences don't determine if you need a job. Together we can create programs that strive to create better lives for women by preparing them for a successful career in the skill trades industry and by connecting them with other tradeswomen.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Title]

[Your Address]

[Your City, State, Zip]

[Your Phone Number]