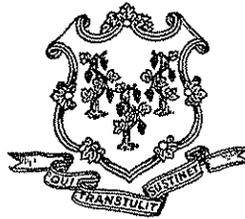


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Good Morning Senator Doyle, Representative Taborsak and members of the General Law Committee, I am here to testify in favor of SB 160, AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF AUTOMOBILE DIAGNOSTIC CODES.

This legislation would require automobile manufacturers to make automobile diagnostic codes available for purchase by all automobile mechanics.

This issue was brought to my attention by one of my constituents who is an independent mechanic and has suffered the consequence of the current situation. I then learned that this issue, the Right to Repair, has been the subject of proposed bills in Congress for nearly a decade as well as more recently in several state legislatures. The legislation would simply require automobile manufacturers to provide the same information to independent repair shops as they do for dealer shops. The purpose of this legislation is to assist small independent mechanics who often repair older automobiles once warranties expire; it is not meant to be a boon to large chain automotive stores. It might be

a reasonable step to amend this bill to restrict its requirements to businesses with 10 or fewer employees.

When Congress passed the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments it required all vehicles built after 1994 to include on-board computer systems to monitor vehicle emissions. Automakers are required, under the Act, to provide independent repairers the same emissions service information as provided to franchised new car dealers. Since that time, computers came to control many of the systems of every vehicle, including brakes, ignition keys, air bags, and steering mechanisms. Computer diagnostic tools have replaced much of a mechanic's observation and experience. The auto manufacturers have become the "gatekeepers" of advanced information necessary to repair or supply parts to motor vehicles.

Yet, despite the investment of thousands of dollars in diagnostic equipment, computers, and training by independent service garages, car manufacturers continue to hold back on some of the information that mechanics need in order to properly repair cars and reset codes and warning lights. This issue appears stymied in Congress; it is time for state action. Thank you for hearing this important bill.