

REGARDING BILL # 5072

My name is Mark Vece; I am with Curved Glass Distributors. We are a family owned business with 2 wholesale locations in Ct. One in Derby and One in Enfield.

We are a full line distributor of automotive and architectural glass to the trade.

We have been in business since 1945; my family has been a part of this business since 1970.

I am here today to urge you to support Bill #5072, it is vitally important for the survival of the independent auto glass shops in Ct.

Currently even if a auto glass installation shop joins a networks run by the Third Party Providers that is affiliated with a chain of glass shops, and the independent has agreed to the discounts, labor rates and warrantees, they still see very little work.

Year after year we have seen our customer base get smaller and smaller as our customers struggle to get any insurance work. Gone are the days when there were 2 or 3 auto glass shops in a given area offering the consumer a choice. Now most of the work is scheduled from an out of state headquarters and the installers are dispatched from 1 or 2 locations within the state.

We offer an OE product that is equal to or superior to the glass offered by many of the chains, and at a price that is more than competitive in the market place. This allows the independent glass shops to offer to the consumer a quality product at a competitive price. Unfortunately being that they are shut out of the insurance business in Ct. that only leaves them with out of pocket jobs and work at repair shops that don't go though insurance.

All we are asking is to require the networks to give just one more name besides their own to the consumer when there is a glass claim

Also keep in mine all the income that is earned by people like us stays in this state.