



## Connecticut Senate Transportation Committee Senate Bill 1040

### LKQ Corporation Testimony

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero and Members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Ray Colas and I am a Government Affairs Representative for LKQ Corporation. I am submitting testimony today in opposition to SB 1040, An Act Concerning Counterfeit and Substandard Airbags.

SB 1040 is a great consumer protection bill that addresses a nationwide concern as it relates to the improper replacement of a motor vehicle airbag. LKQ has supported consumer protection issues across the nation specifically dealing with airbag replacement.

The only and most critical concern with the language in SB 1040 falls within the definition of "Substandard Airbag". As currently written, the standard for a "Substandard Airbag" is defined by an airbag originally installed in a motor vehicle. That implies that airbags originally installed in motor vehicles do not fail. In 2012, Honda and Toyota alone were responsible for over 1.5 million airbag recalls. Honda acknowledged that 14 months ago at least 2 deaths and 20 accidents resulted from airbag failure. In January of this year Honda and Toyota has already conducted airbag recalls that involves 750,000 and 900,000 vehicles respectively.

We would like to suggest strengthening the definition by redefining a "substandard airbag" to "An airbag that does not meet all applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards for an airbag designed to be installed in a motor vehicle of a particular make, model and year."

LKQ Corporation is the largest nationwide provider of aftermarket and recycled collision replacement parts and refurbished collision replacement products such as wheels, bumper covers and lights, and a leading provider of mechanical replacement parts including remanufactured engines, all in connection with the repair of automobiles and other vehicles. LKQ also has operations in the United Kingdom, Canada, Mexico and Central America. Globally, LKQ has just under 20,000 employees and operates more than 430 facilities, offering its customers a broad range of replacement systems, components and parts to repair automobiles and light, medium and heavy-duty trucks.

LKQ employs 14,000 people nationwide and operates more than 400 facilities in more than 43 states. LKQ has 128 employees at 4 locations in Connecticut found in the following cities: one (1) in Manchester, one (1) in Milford, one (1) in Sterling, and one (1) in Waterbury, and pays taxes on a payroll of over \$4.5 million dollars.

As a member of the Senate Transportation Committee, I hope you will recognize the many detriments this bill poses to consumers in Connecticut. On behalf of LKQ Corporation, I ask you to vote "NO" on SB 1040 as currently written.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at (954) 492-9092.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Colas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "C".

Ray Colas  
Government Affairs Representative  
LKQ Corporation