



Auto Body Association of Connecticut

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“Pulling together for a better future”

March 8, 2013

State Representative Antonio Guerrero
Senator Andrew Maynard
& Members of the Transportation Committee
Room 2300, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Opposition to H.B. 6495
An Act Concerning Revisions to the Motor Vehicle Statutes
Sections 48-53

The purpose of this testimony is to voice the viewpoints of the Auto Body Association of Connecticut (ABAC) membership in opposition to H.B 6495 as it is written. The ABAC consists of over 150 Connecticut based small businesses. We, collectively, as licensed dealers and repairers, employ thousands of Connecticut Taxpayers across our entire state.

Many of the proposed changes within this bill create unprecedented prosecution ability within the DMV. These changes will impact CT business owners that are licensed under the Department. This legislation will allow the DMV to focus on punitive measures against its licensees, rather than assisting and educating licensees so they may better operate in compliance with regulations. We believe that the goal should be to have licensees and the DMV work together so we may all better serve the needs of the motoring public.

I make these statements based on personal experience, and through the shared experiences of many of our members. Many times, the ABAC, its members, and legal counsel have requested clarification and assistance with compliance and regulatory concerns, only to be told, “We don’t do that.”

Woven into several sections of this legislation are unattainable expectations of licensees and contradictions to existing laws and regulations. These contradictions can make it difficult for a licensee not to be in violation in some manner on a daily basis.

This bill lacks practicality and is bad for Connecticut businesses, their employees and families. Additionally, the language within this bill has the potential to create a significant unwarranted burden on the judicial system and the licensees of the DMV.

We, as an association, business owners, residents and taxpayers request you look closely at the sections of this legislation that establish misdemeanors for certain violations of the motor vehicle statutes.

WE IMPLORE YOU TO VOTE IN OPPOSITION TO THE DISCUSSED PORTIONS OF THIS BILL.

Thank you in advance to your anticipated cooperation,

Sincerely,
William Romaniello III
Vice President, Auto Body Association of Connecticut