



Auto Body Association of Connecticut

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“Pulling together for a better future”

**TESTIMONY OF
AUTO BODY ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT
BY
ANTHONY FERRAILOLO, PRESIDENT
REGARDING
SENATE RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF KATHERINE L. WADE
OF SIMSBURY TO BE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE
APRIL 2, 2015**

The Auto Body Association of Connecticut (ABAC), a statewide trade association of professionals dedicated to the advancement of the collision repair industry, through safe quality repairs for Connecticut consumers, respectfully submits the following comments regarding the Senate Resolution Confirming the Nomination of Katherine L. Wade to be Commissioner of Insurance:

The ABAC wishes to congratulate Katherine Wade on her nomination to be Commissioner of Insurance for the State of Connecticut. As a professional association representing both independent auto repairers and their consumers, matters of property and casualty insurance, more specifically, automobile liability insurance policies, are dealt with by our member shops and our consumers on a daily basis. The business of insurance is an integral part to our industry.

Upon her nomination, Ms. Wade made public statements reflecting her desire to protect consumers. The ABAC is very much encouraged by this as we both share a common interest in protecting consumers in the property and casualty insurance marketplace.

The ABAC believes the Commissioner of Insurance can and should play a vital and active role in consumer protection. While tasked with overseeing and regulating sophisticated multistate, multinational, and multibillion dollar corporations, the Department also needs to ensure that the rights and interests of individual policyholders are protected. We are optimistic that Ms. Wade will take these vital interests into account when serving the Department.

In other states, Commissioners of Insurance have engaged in public service announcements on matters of consumer protection, education and policyholder rights. The Oklahoma Insurance Department, for example, recently released a public service video informing consumers of their right to choose the repair facility of their choice and of the insurer's obligation to pay the claim promptly no matter where the vehicle is repaired. We would like to see Connecticut's Department of Insurance similarly engaged on matters of consumer awareness and protection.

On behalf of the Auto Body Association of Connecticut, we extend our best wishes and congratulations to Ms. Wade. The ABAC stands ready and willing to work with her and the Department, and we look forward to an opportunity to do so soon.