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& ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

**Testimony of State Representative Patricia Billie Miller**  
**To the General Law Committee, in support of: House Bill 6451, *An Act Concerning***  
***Prohibiting Warranty Terms Conditioned on Registration***

**Public Hearing February 17, 2015**

Good afternoon Chairman Leone, Representative Baram and members of the General Law Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to express my support for one of the proposals before you this session. I am here to testify in support of House Bill 6451, AN ACT PROHIBITING WARRANTY TERMS CONDITIONED ON REGISTRATION which protects consumers by not requiring product registration to obtain longer warranty coverage.

Consumers purchase products with the understanding that they do what they are advertised to do and they will remain in working condition for a period of time. Manufacturers offer a warranty as a commitment that they stand behind their product and will repair or replace that product in case of defect. Registering the product should have nothing to do with the manufacturer fulfilling their promise and should not diminish or impact an owner's warranty rights.

Under California law, it is prohibited to require product registration to obtain longer warranty periods. For example, a manufacturer automatically warranty a product for five (5) years and gives an additional five (5) years if the consumer registers the product within ninety (90) days of purchase. In California, the consumer would automatically receive 10 years warranty while in Connecticut the consumer would not be eligible to receive the same benefit merely because they Failed to register their product.

As the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection states on their website, "Warranties can be among the most confusing part of a consumer transaction." How many of our State's consumers lose the benefit of this extra protection because they were not aware of the requirement or unable to understand the written material? By enacting this bill into law, this would no longer be an issue. Chairman Leone, Representative Baram and members of the General Law Committee, I urge you to support House Bill 6451.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.