



Auto Body Association of Connecticut

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"Pulling together for a better future"

March 6, 2015

Senator Eric D. Coleman
Representative William Tong
& Members of the Judiciary Committee
Room 2500, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: **HB-6924**
***AN ACT INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF DAMAGES THAT MAY BE
CLAIMED IN A SMALL CLAIMS ACTION.***

Dear Senator Coleman & Representative Tong:

On behalf of the Auto Body Association of Connecticut (ABAC), please accept this letter in support of HB-6924, which would increase the amount of damages that may be claimed in Small Claims Court from five thousand dollars to ten thousand dollars. As an association of small business owners who are often compelled to file lawsuits for the collection of unpaid or underpaid claims, our members would benefit from the proposed reform. It is not uncommon for one of our members with damages exceeding five thousand dollars to begrudgingly file a lawsuit in Small Claims. This is due in part to the expedition and economic advantages of Small Claims.

According to *Nolo.com*, sixteen other states have Small Claims limits of ten thousand dollars or greater. Increasing the Small Claims limit will give more individuals and small businesses greater access to justice and the court system. The proposed increase in filing fees for cases over five thousand dollars seems reasonable and appropriate to cover any additional costs to implement the reform.

For these reasons, the ABAC respectfully urges the passage of HB-6924. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Anthony Ferraiolo
President, Auto Body Association of Connecticut