February 27, 2020

Testimony by Representative Mitch Bolinsky
Before the General Law Committee in support of Raised S.B. No. 136,
AAC MOTOR VEHICLE OWNER AND SMALL BUSINESS RIGHT TO REPAIR

Good day, Co-Chairs D'Agostino & Maroney; Ranking Members Cheeseman & Witkos and distinguished members of the General Law Committee. I want to thank you raising this very important bill that will protect the rights of motor vehicle owners, consumer-electronics customers and the many small businesses that exist to serve them.

Often, usable products and device components are trashed instead of being salvaged, fixed and reused. Products can last longer, creating consumer "value" and reducing waste through repair of electronics across the consumer spectrum - not only for the first owner—but also for the third, the fourth & fifth, through formal and informal reuse and repair.

Product owners deserve the RIGHT TO REPAIR products they purchase, whether at the point of purchase or at an INDEPENDENT REPAIR FACILITY of their choice.

Many manufacturers make it impossible, whether inadvertently or intentionally, for consumers or independent repair techs to fix their products, leaving few other options than to buy new.

Products should be designed to have their lifespan extended by regular maintenance and repair. Today, most repairs involve electronics: any product can have embedded electronics or, will have embedded electronics. Repairing those electronics requires information, parts, firmware access and tooling specifications from the product designers.

The knowledge and tools to repair and refurbish products should be distributed as widely and freely as the products themselves. In contrast to centralized manufacturing, reuse must be broadly distributed to achieve economies of scale.

Creating an economy around extending the lifespan of manufactured goods will create jobs, allow consumer choice and benefit the environment by making a nice dent on today's solid waste stream. I encourage you to include consumer electronics and forward SB-136 to the Senate for passage.

Respectfully,

Representative Mitch Bolinsky

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