



HB 4343 TESTIMONY

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

Public Act 300 of 1974, the Motor Vehicle Service Repair Act, was implemented as legislation that provided a consumer safety & protection mechanism for the motoring public. Though the act was felt to lead the nation at the time for Repair Facility Licensing, it lacked in ability to penalize or enforce against “unlicensed independent automotive repair facilities”.

Last month, HB 4343 was introduced which will provide that opportunity for the Business Licensing & Regulatory Division under the Secretary of State’s Office to govern unlicensed automotive repair facilities here in the State of Michigan. In addition, I wish to point out that the language of this bill parallels the language already in affect from Public Act 652 of 2002 which addressed this similar problems with unlicensed auto dealer’s here in the State of Michigan under the Governor John Engler administration and with significant success.

Last year in the spring of 2014, a retired gentleman of 82 was taken advantage of by an unlicensed repair facility in the Metro Detroit area. The gentleman’s granddaughter called the Business Licensing & Regulatory Division only to find out that because the facility was unlicensed, the law restricted their ability to effectively assist in the situation. Two things happened to help this retired gentleman, his granddaughter called Representative Santana’s office and she called a local television channel WDIV’s

investigative reporting "Ruth to the Rescue", which led to the introduction of this bill last year and again this year.

The incident isn't limited to a certain region of the State, it occurs daily all around Michigan as can be made evident by a simple search on Craigslist for example. Not only does the current situation poke holes in the current law by defying the consumer its protection as evident in the example provided, but it also robs the State of Michigan revenue from the fees collected annually by the Secretary of State's office for licensing along with potential revenue from sales tax and income tax.

My association, our members and the independent automotive repair industry itself has had the opportunity to review this legislation and our feedback has been extremely positive and supportive of this bill which provides integrity of the system and rewarding those small businesses doing the right thing here in Michigan even during the recession.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration.