



**Ohio Sunset Review Committee**

**James Chilcoat**

**Proponent Testimony In Support of the Motor Vehicle Repair Board**

Chairman Jordan, Vice Chair Brown and the members of the Sunset Review Committee, my name is James Chilcoat and I am one of the owners of C & C Tire, an automotive repair facility located in Harrison, Ohio for over 30 years. I graduated from Miami University in 1981, worked for the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company for two years and opened the business in 1983 with my father-in-law. Six years later my brother-in-law joined the business. We continue to operate as a family business today. We believe in taking care of our customers, our employees, and our community. I am also the president of the Automotive Service Association of Ohio (ASA Ohio), a statewide association representing hundreds of automotive service professionals throughout Ohio. I would like to thank you for allowing me to testify today in support of the Motor Vehicle Repair Board, which is an important resource to Ohio's automotive repair industry.

Prior to the Board's creation law-abiding collision repair facilities were required to work diligently with various state agencies to gain compliance with current laws and regulations. Unfortunately, not all those in the industry were willing to put forth such an effort. Without a professional board present, unscrupulous repair shops found that many of their violations went unnoticed and unenforced. Although cutting corners made it easier on their business, it put customers, other businesses and the general public at risk. With little oversight, the number of "chop shops", "fly-by-nights", and other unscrupulous entities ran rampant. While legitimate repair shops went under because they couldn't compete with those cutting corners.

The industry was desperate for a solution. Then in 1997, at the request of Ohio's automotive service industry, Representative Kerry Metzger introduced HB 143 to create the Ohio Board of Motor Vehicle Collision Repair Registration. During that time, Governor George Voinovich and the rest of the Ohio General Assembly were hesitant to create any new type of governmental board or registration process. Nevertheless, Ohio's legislative leaders saw the problems that existed in the industry and understood that the Board would serve as a way to protect both consumers and other businesses. The legislation was passed with overwhelming support and was signed into law by Governor Voinovich.

Since the creation of the Board, now named the Motor Vehicle Repair Board, I have witnessed how it has benefitted Ohio's collision repair industry. For roughly 15 years the Board has successfully assisted repairers in becoming compliant with federal, state and local

February 9, 2016

regulations. The Board has also raised the bar of professionalism within the collision repair industry. Prior to the Board's creation it was difficult to tell who was skirting the law and who was operating a legitimate business. Today consumers are able to see that a collision repair facility is registered with the Board and can be reassured that their vehicle is being repaired by a business that is in compliance with all current laws.

I think it is important to note that the Board was never intended to create new standards or develop regulations that would be a burden to the automotive repair industry. The goal was to create a registration board comprised of volunteer members from within the industry to help businesses comply with various laws and regulations. Furthermore, the Board was never designed to prevent new businesses from entering the industry. Quite the opposite. The Board helps new businesses in becoming compliant with regulations that are already in place. The registration process is extremely easy: a shop owner completes a simple form and provides evidence that he is compliant with all local, state and federal laws. Unlike other Boards you may review, the Motor Vehicle Repair Board does not license individual technicians, require minimum training standards, or mandate continuing education for employees. There is also a temporary registration process in place to assist those businesses that may need some additional time to comply.

Members of the committee, as a small business owner I typically support cutting burdensome regulations. Nevertheless, the members of ASA Ohio do not view the Motor Vehicle Repair Board as a burden on the collision repair industry. Instead it is a resource that has served our profession for well over 15 years. The Board promotes fair competition and protects customers from illegal collision repair operators. For these reasons I ask for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Chilcoat".

James Chilcoat  
President/Chairman – Automotive Service Association of Ohio, Inc.