

Proponent Testimony

House Bill 77

Transportation & Public Safety Committee

Chairman Green, Vice-Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and Transportation & Public Safety Committee Members, I'm honored to be able to give testimony on the Legalize Window Tinting Act. My name is Tim Gurewicz and I am the General Manager at Automotive Appearance Pros in Worthington, Ohio. We have been in business since 1990 providing Ohio residents, local dealerships, city police, county sheriffs, and state departments with vehicle accessories, paint protection film, electronics, lettering & graphics, plus the obvious reason we are here today, window tint. Two years ago we became a Pro Select dealer for Eastman Llumar Formula One automotive tint. We are 1 of only 200 stores worldwide that can carry its elite line of films. Obviously I strongly support House Bill 77. This bill will enable me to provide a service that many Ohioans request. Unfortunately, the current law restricts Ohioans from having a reasonable level of tint on their front-driver side windows.

Currently the limit is excessive and unfair to Ohioans. By only allowing a 50% light transmittance on front driver-side windows, it effectively makes tinting illegal in Ohio. In fact, many customers that elect to have 50% tint done on their front windows think we had forgotten to tint their windows since 50% is effectively no tint at all. Many other states provide the freedom to tint windows with a darker level of tint. From health to security concerns, there are many reasons Ohioans tint their windows. This was especially true when police officers were being targeted a few years ago. We made police a priority to get their vehicles in quickly in order to install privacy glass tint to keep them protected driving to and from work. It is time Ohio recognize these reasons and adjust the law to accommodate for these legitimate purposes.

The current law has effected businesses that perform window-tinting statewide. A car window, tinted at a 50% light transmittance level, does not offer much protection to our customers and is not desirable. Currently, our customers either elect not to have window tint done or will take their chances with the law and request tint below the legal limit. An increase to a 30% level for front driver-side windows will meet many of our customer's needs. The current law hurts my business by restricting the sale of in-demand tint. Tint that is legal in other states. By changing a rigid law that is unreasonable, Ohio will encourage economic growth. We are not part of a franchise or large corporation. We are a small business that is owned by an Ohioan, employs Ohioans and keeps families economically strong. We support local civic groups, scholastic sports and bands, all school functions, car clubs and other events that need the help of local, small businesses. House Bill 77 is right for Ohio businesses and its citizens.

I thank the committee for this opportunity and I am able to answer any questions at this time.

Sincerely,

Tim Gurewicz, *General Manager*

Automotive Appearance Pros, Inc.