

OHIO AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION



May 18, 2020

The Honorable John Eklund, Chairman
Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee
Statehouse
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Eklund:

On behalf of over 830 dealer members, we are writing today to urge your support of Senate Bill 308 (Huffman), which would provide immunity from unwarranted legal action for businesses, including employees, who in good faith are attempting to comply with federal and state guidelines during a state of emergency.

By way of introduction, our dealer members employ thousands in Ohio and play a key role in both the local and state economies as it relates to tax collection and remittance. The majority of our dealerships are family owned and remain very active on both the charitable and civic fronts in their local communities.

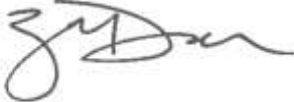
Make no mistake – like other industries the COVID 19 pandemic has dealt Ohio's automotive retail industry a significant blow. As you know our vehicle sales are down, which in turn impacts a host of others that benefit from on our operations, ranging from our employees to the state and local governments that rely heavily on vehicle sales tax and vehicle registration fees.

We are appreciative to Governor DeWine for deeming our dealers as essential, recognizing the important role dealers play in selling and servicing vehicles to essential workers and others who need transportation assistance during this challenging time.

As we reopen Ohio, it's important that dealers and other businesses who are operating responsibly have some assurance that they will not be faced with legal action relating to their operations during a state of emergency. We

believe Senate Bill 308 provides that certainty and urge your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Zach Doran
President



VP, Government Relations

Cc: Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee Members