

**Proponent Testimony
HB 210**

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on House Bill 210.

The Ohio Insurance Agents Association (OIA) is the collective voice of over 1,000 independent agencies that employ nearly 11,000 Ohioans. We promote, progress, and protect the profession and the guidance only independent insurance agents provide. Independent insurance agents are trusted advisors to Ohio citizens and businesses and are responsible for servicing 89% of the commercial policies and 46% of the personal policies in the state. Independent agents offer many types of insurance – auto, health, home, life, and business insurance – from many different companies to match consumers with the best choices for their particular needs.

We are writing today in strong support of House Bill 210. Independent agents across Ohio are there to assist their clients dealing with the difficult situation of having their catalytic converter stolen. These crimes not only harm individuals but also place a tremendous strain on the insurance industry through the claims process. Replacing a catalytic converter can cost thousands of dollars in parts and repair.

House Bill 210 takes meaningful action to cut down on bad actors. We support language that increases penalties for repeat catalytic converter theft and penalizes those who receive, traffic, or profit from stolen catalytic converters. Additionally, OIA supports bill language that prohibits motor vehicle salvage dealers from purchasing catalytic converters.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to write in support of House Bill 210. We are proud to support this meaningful legislation as we are looking to protect consumers and shut down illegal auto part theft in our state. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,
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