



February 6th, 2025

Chair Sosa
Vice-Chair Chaichi, Vice-Chair Osborne
House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection
900 Court St NE, H-283
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 3177

Dear Chair Sosa, Vice Chair Chaichi, Vice Chair Osborne, and Members of the Committee:

For the record my name is Nansi Lopez, Policy Director at Centro Cultural. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on behalf of Centro Cultural in support of HB 3177, which protects consumers from preventable injuries and financial burdens when purchasing a vehicle.

Centro Cultural is the oldest and longest-serving Latino culturally specific organization in the state of Oregon. It empowers Latino families and diverse communities by removing barriers, fostering well-being, and building power to achieve economic prosperity. Centro centers the experiences of those most impacted in our communities in everything we do, with a commitment to reducing barriers at every level of our work.

Because of the various issues that specifically impact our Latino communities in the car-buying space, Centro participated in an Auto-Purchasing Cohort convened by Oregon Consumer Justice in 2024. From this cohort, we found ways to create community-guided policy solutions to address key issues impacting our communities.

The process of purchasing a car can be stressful and confusing. Many consumers, particularly those with limited auto knowledge and financial resources, or who

speak English as a second language, may unknowingly purchase a vehicle with a serious defect.

Defective airbags, faulty brakes, and engine failures are just a few examples of recall issues that can cause severe injuries or fatalities. By ensuring that these defects are addressed before a vehicle is sold, we prioritize public safety and ensure that consumers are confident in making one of the largest purchases they may ever make.

Requiring sellers to verify and repair open safety recalls in vehicles before a final sale would ensure that consumers, regardless of language proficiency receive a safe and reliable car.

We urge your support of HB 3177. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and your service to Oregon communities.

Sincerely,
Nansi Lopez