

**Testimony Submitted by
Angela Donley, Policy Analyst
Oregon Consumer Justice
To the House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection**

February 4, 2025

Regarding: Support for HB 3177

Chair Sosa, Vice-Chair Chaichi, Vice-Chair Osborne, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Angela Donley. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Oregon Consumer Justice in support of HB 3177.

Oregon Consumer Justice (OCJ) envisions a vibrant future where all Oregonians live with dignity and abundance and experience health, joy, and economic opportunity. We work collaboratively across policy and advocacy, community engagement, and the law, to realize a more just and equitable Oregon where people come first. For too long, flawed systems and policies have stood in the way of this reality, with communities of color most often experiencing significant harm. Informed by consumer insights, OCJ works to make financial and business transactions reliably safe and supports Oregonians in knowing and exercising their consumer rights.

Consumers should not bear the consequences of manufacturer defects or questionable dealer purchases when purchasing a car.

HB 3177 requires auto dealers to check the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration VIN recall database when they purchase a vehicle. Prior to advertising or selling that car to a consumer, the dealer is mandated to repair any open recalls. This bill will ensure all operational vehicles sold in Oregon are safe, preventing both injuries and financial burdens to consumers.

Carfax estimates that in 2024, 1 out of every 5 cars on US roads had an open safety recall, and in Oregon, an estimated 500,000 to 100,000 cars have current recalls.¹ Oregon's current disclosure regulation imposes dealers with the bare minimum of responsibility, shifting both the financial and physical burden of addressing recalls onto consumers. We believe that dealers, as professionals in the industry, are equipped to identify which cars have open recalls and more easily process navigating these repairs with the manufacturers.

Thank you for your consideration and your service in building the future that Oregonians deserve.

¹ 2024 Open Recall Facts and Figures. <https://www.carfax.com/recall/>. CarFax. Retrieved January 29, 2025.