



Testimony of Debra Levy Outgoing President, Auto Glass Safety Council In Support of HB 699

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the privilege of submitting this testimony today in support of HB 699, auto glass safety legislation.

My name is Debra Levy and I reside in North Stafford, Virginia. I have served for several years, until recently, as the president of the Auto Glass Safety Council (AGSC), headquartered in Stafford. AGSC is a not-for-profit safety organization dedicated to the proper installation of auto glass. AGSC members are installation companies and technicians, associations, safety advocates and suppliers of materials such as glass and adhesives, insurance companies, and those who provide auto glass information and services. It has both for-profit and not-for-profit companies as members.

AGSC has members in all 50 states and a number of countries. For example, four of the five largest auto glass installation companies in the United States are members. It is open to all with an interest in safety.

AGSC manages a robust training and certification program. It provides educational events online and in person and it produces materials to educate the public about safe installations.

AGSC has also developed the automotive glass replacement safety standard (AGRSS). Federal agencies such as NHTSA do not regulate the installation of glass in the aftermarket. This falls to the states. AGSC's standards-making process is approved by ANSI, a group that focuses on the process, not content. ANSI's role is to make sure our development process was by consensus, fair and transparent.

Standards only work when they are followed. That is why AGSC also administers one of the most innovative self-regulation programs ever created in the automotive aftermarket. To become members, installation companies provide evidence that they follow the standard including documentation for the adhesive systems they use and the training their technicians undergo. In fact, the technicians who work for AGSC companies must be AGSC-certified. Upon acceptance, AGSC members undergo periodic, onsite audits by independent third-party auditors; these auditors work for AGSC, not for the auto glass company. The auditors review a shop's installation practices and procedures and watch and review technicians installing auto glass. They check everything down to the expiration dates of the adhesives being used.

Any shop found not compliant with the standard is notified and must correct the deficiency within six weeks. The auditors then return and verify that the deficiencies have been corrected. If they have not come into compliance, they are removed as members.

Many Virginia companies are AGSC members and part of this program. These companies are committed to safety.

In my role as a glass safety advocate, I sometimes talk to technicians who express ignorance of the standard, or worse, who know about it and say they don't need to follow it because it's voluntary, it's not the law. You can change that today for the safety of everyone in Virginia with the passage of HB 699. Thank you.