

My name is Brian England, my daughter, wife and I own BA Auto Care in Columbia Maryland which has been in the automotive repair and service business for 48 years. We support HB 1429 . This Bill is about Fair Competition, Local Businesses, lowering Consumer Costs, preventing price gouging, affordable data access subscriptions and the vehicle owners control of telematics.

- **Local Small Businesses:** Maryland's independent repair facilities need diagnostic and repair information on the same terms as authorized dealers to stay competitive and keep local jobs.
- **Lowering Consumer Costs:** By “leveling the playing field” it allows for fair competition. Rather than forcing owners to use authorized dealers for repairs, creating a monopoly that drives up prices.
- **Preventing Price Gouging:** Section 14-5204, which prohibits manufacturers from withholding part numbers to prevent customers from shopping for competitive prices on replacement parts.
- **Subscription Flexibility:** We support the bill’s requirement in (Section 14-5203) that technical info be available on a daily, monthly, or yearly basis. This ensures that a home-mechanic or small shops only pay for what they need.
- **Owner Control of Telematics:** I favor the mandate for an **open data platform** for vehicle telematics (starting with model year 2025). This ensures owners, not just manufacturers, have control over who accesses their vehicle's diagnostic data.

Skilled technicians need easy access to technical information so they can diagnose cars efficiently. Please give this bill a favorable report.

Thank you