



Dear Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

Would you board an airplane if its safety systems functioned correctly only 80 percent of the time?

We would never accept that standard in aviation, and we should not accept it for the vehicles carrying Maryland families on our roads. Advanced Driver Assistance Systems are designed to prevent crashes but only when they are calibrated correctly. If SB789 creates a license without verifying technician competence, we risk mistaking paperwork for public safety.

I am here today as an industry expert in automotive technician education and credentialing. I am also Founder and President of the International Advanced Vehicle Technology Education and Credentialing Coalition, AVTECC.

The central question before you today is not whether to license. It is how to ensure that a license actually means something.

Today, there are no minimum qualifications to enter the automotive field. Legacy industry certification programs rely on multiple-choice exams that test knowledge, but do not verify hands-on performance. Yet ADAS calibration is a precision task that must be performed correctly 100% of the time.

AVTECC administers an independent, third-party, performance-based ADAS certification. Our standards are built through national industry consensus. To pass our certification exam, technicians must demonstrate actual proficiency with 100% accuracy, not just theoretical understanding. Our model can also be delivered remotely, reducing administrative burden while maintaining rigor.

If Maryland proceeds with SB789, AVTECC can serve as an independent validator, provide industry-developed standards, verify performance-based technical skill, and support a defensible licensing framework without building one from scratch.

If the goal of this legislation is public safety, then competence must be the standard.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of SB789.

Sincerely,

David Macholz

President / CEO

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### **How AVTECC Can Assist:**

Should Maryland move forward with a technician licensing framework under SB789, AVTECC could serve as an industry validator to support the appropriate regulatory authority.

AVTECC could serve in the following roles:

- Provide validated, industry-developed occupational standards
- Verify performance-based competency
- Support credential alignment with employer demand
- Offer independent validation of qualifications for licensure consideration and act as a clearinghouse to remove the administrative burden from the office responsible for granting technician and shop licenses.

By leveraging an existing, nationally recognized performance certification infrastructure, Maryland could establish a rigorous, defensible, and efficiently implemented licensing program without constructing standards and validation systems from the ground up.

### **About David Macholz:**

David Macholz is an industry expert in automotive technician standards, certification, and workforce development. As an ECMC Foundation Post Secondary CTE Fellow and doctoral student at Old Dominion University, his research centers on automotive certification and credentialing. He is the Founder and President of AVTECC, where he leads national efforts to establish validated, industry-driven standards for advanced vehicle technology professionals.

### **About AVTECC:**

The International Advanced Vehicle Technology Education and Credentialing Coalition (AVTECC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to elevating the professional standards of the automotive and transportation workforce. AVTECC develops industry-aligned technical standards, education program accreditation, **and** performance-based certification to validate real-world skills for technicians working with advanced vehicle technologies, including electric vehicles and advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS). AVTECC's certification model is built on job task analysis and industry consensus to ensure technicians demonstrate hands-on competence, not just theoretical knowledge. AVTECC works with educators, employers, and industry partners nationwide to strengthen workforce readiness, support student success, and increase public confidence in the technicians who maintain and repair today's complex vehicles.