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TESTIMONY OF DENISE SELL

RE: AB 325

Mr. (Ms.) Chair(man)(woman), thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee in support of Assembly Bill 325.

My name is Denise Sell and I live in Las Vegas. I am a single mother of two and work at a Von's grocery store. I had an older car that was paid off and I had managed to save \$2,000 as a down payment toward a new car. So I went to a major Las Vegas dealership, where I was told I would not qualify to purchase a new car but they would sell me a one year old Suzuki which had less than 7,000 miles on it. The salesman told me the car was "very reliable," was in "good condition," had "hardly been used," and was "still under factory warranty with two years of factory warranty left." On the test drive, I noticed the car pulled to the left on occasion, but the salesman assured me the car just needed an alignment and it would be taken care of.

The day after I purchased the car I discovered the horn did not work. I returned to the dealership and I was told that would be fixed when the alignment was done.

When I later took the car in, the dealership told me to take it to the Suzuki dealership for repair under the factory warranty. When I took it to the Suzuki dealership, I was told the factory warranty would not cover the car because it had been wrecked. I learned that the car had problems which made it unsafe to drive. I also learned the horn was not working because a wiring harness had been cut, and as a result the air bags would also not operate. Someone had removed the bulb from the dashboard warning light for the air bags. I was shocked to learn I had been driving myself and my two young children in a car which was unsafe to drive.

The dealer which sold me the car refused to take responsibility and in fact accused me of having driven the car into a curb. I am now involved in a lawsuit with the dealer and the car has been repossessed.

Please pass AB 325. Someone should be required to look at rebuilt cars and certify that they are safe before they are sold to people.