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AB 325

TESTIMONY OF BENJAMIN ALVARADO

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to address the committee.

My name is Benjamin Alvarado and I live in Las Vegas. I had the unfortunate experience of buying an undisclosed salvage vehicle from a major Las Vegas dealership which I would like to share with you.

In September, 2001, I purchased a used, 1998 Volkswagen Jetta with about 58,000 miles for over \$ 14,000.00, full retail Blue Book value. I also purchased an extended service contract for \$ 1,000.00.

The car ran fine for about 1 ½ years and I drove it 22,000 miles. The engine then began making a clunking noise, so I took it to the dealer for service under the extended service contract. That is when I learned for the first time that the dealer had supposedly canceled the extended service contract on the same day I purchased the car. The reason given for cancellation was that my car had been in an accident before I bought it. That was a surprise to me because the dealer never told me that. So I looked into the matter and learned from the lien holder that the title was branded "rebuilt." The dealer had never made mileage disclosure to me on the title, never shown me the title, and never told me the title was branded "rebuilt." The dealer cheated me. A rebuilt wreck with a branded title is worth less than a car which has not been wrecked and has a clean title.

It is my understanding that AB 325 will require dealers to disclose that a car is a salvage vehicle before they sell it, and will also give consumers greater remedies if they don't. Please pass AB 325. In my experience, it is needed.