



EDWARD BROOKS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Testimony – AB 119
Assembly Committee on Insurance
October 22, 2015

Mr. Chair and Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of Assembly Bill 119. This proposal has been carefully and thoughtfully crafted to clearly state in law that consumers have the right to choose who will repair their motor vehicle if it is damaged.

Assembly Bill 119 specifically prohibits an insurer from requiring vehicle repairs to be made by a particular contractor or repair facility as a condition of insurance coverage; or fails to initiate or conclude with due dispatch an investigation of a claim for repairs on that basis of whether the repair will be made by a particular contractor or repair facility. This is a consumer choice proposal that follows Wisconsin law that prohibits the practice of steering of auto glass work.

This common-sense proposal guarantees market competition and protects consumers from predatory business practices; however, insurer referrals to preferred providers are still allowed under this bill.

Assembly Amendment 1 to AB 119 was offered at the request of the Wisconsin Insurance Alliance, and it clarifies that an insurer is prohibited from both failing to initiate **and** to conclude, with due dispatch an investigation of a claim for repairs on the basis of whether the repair is made by a particular contractor or repair facility. This amendment will keep language in statute and administrative code consistent.

Senate Bill 93, the companion to Assembly Bill 119, was amended in the same manner as I propose. In the Senate Committee on Insurance, Housing, and Trade, no one registered or testified in opposition to SB 93 and it unanimously recommended passage as amended on May 29th, and SB 93 passed the senate on a voice vote.

Mr. Chair, thank you for holding this public hearing on Assembly Bill 119, and for scheduling an executive session on the bill as well. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.