



February 26, 2024

Honorable Martin Lalonde, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Vermont State Capitol  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633

**Re: Protecting Domestic Violence Survivors from Abuser Access to Remote Vehicle Technology**

Dear Chair Lalonde and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Alliance for Automotive Innovation<sup>1</sup> (Auto Innovators), thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding H223, legislation to protect domestic violence survivors from the misuse of remote vehicle technology. This legislation aligns with the auto industry's commitment to safety and security for all individuals.

Safety is a cornerstone of the automotive industry and serves as a driving factor in automotive innovation and design. Consistent with that ethos, Auto Innovators understands the importance of protecting survivors of domestic violence from their abusers and is deeply troubled by the potential and unacceptable misuse of connected vehicle services for these purposes. We commend you for incorporating Auto Innovators' suggested federal language in this bill, ensuring consistency in addressing this critical issue across all levels of government.

Auto Innovators would like the committee to consider amending the effective date to provide OEMs sufficient lead time to adjust and implement the necessary protocols for compliance.

***Suggested language:***

***"This act shall take into effect no later than six months after the date of enactment."***

The proposed legislation reflects the auto industry's principles of innovation, responsibility, and consumer safety, reinforcing our shared goal of ensuring technology is a tool for empowerment, not harm.

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<sup>1</sup> From the manufacturers producing most vehicles sold in the U.S., to autonomous vehicle innovators, to equipment suppliers, battery producers, and semiconductor makers – the Alliance for Automotive Innovation represents the full auto industry, a sector supporting 10 million American jobs and five percent of the overall economy. Active in Washington, D.C. and all 50 states, the association is committed to a cleaner, safer, and smarter personal transportation future. [www.autosinnovate.org](http://www.autosinnovate.org).

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our views. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jfenelus@autosinnovate.org](mailto:jfenelus@autosinnovate.org) or our legislative liaison, Bridget Morris at [bmorris@vtlobbyists.com](mailto:bmorris@vtlobbyists.com).

Kindest regards,

  
Judith Fenelus