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July 3, 2018

The Honorable Phil Murphy
Governor, State of New Jersey
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

RE: S 2740 (Beach) / A 4292 (Greenwald) Request for Veto

Dear Governor Murphy:

I know the deadly results that can occur when profits are put over lives. My precious, beautiful, talented daughter Jewel was only 26 years old when she was killed by an unrepaired recalled Takata airbag in a Honda Civic she rented from Sunset Car Rental in San Diego. She was a gifted gymnast, gymnastics teacher and model. Jewel received her Master's Degree at 23 years old, from Hofstra University and prior to her passing she and I were preparing a plan for her Ph.D. at Stanford. Upon receiving her Ph.D., she intended to write children's books and open her own family therapy practice. She was full of life and an absolute joy to all of us who were close to her.

Soon after she rented the car, Jewel was in a low-speed collision involving a string of cars, barely more than a fender-bender. Everyone else walked away. No one else in that crash had their airbags deploy. Jewel would have walked away too, except for the ticking time-bomb Takata airbag in that recalled car, which was like a grenade going off, shooting metal fragments into the passenger compartment. One of the fragments severed Jewel's carotid artery.

The preventable tragedy that claimed Jewel's life, and changed my life forever, happened on September 7, 2014. Jewel was the eighth known victim of Takata's deadly airbags. Since then at least 14 other people – students, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, grandparents, and children – have been killed by exploding Takata airbags. At least another 230 more have been maimed, including sustaining severe facial lacerations, suffering brain damage, and being blinded.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than 37 million recalled cars with potentially explosive Takata airbags are still on our nation's roads. Tens of millions of vehicle owners whose cars are equipped with defective Takata airbags have received safety recall notices, but are unable to obtain repairs due to severe shortages of repair parts. The solution to this public health crisis is certainly not to allow dealers to sell those dangerously defective vehicles at retail to consumers, without ensuring that the ticking time-bomb airbags have been replaced with safe ones.

Given the serious risks posed by those millions of vehicles, and cars with other life-threatening

safety defects that are under recall, I strongly urge you to please VETO S 2740 (Beach) / A 4292 (Greenwald), which would open the floodgates for car dealers in New Jersey to sell dangerous, defective recalled used cars to consumers, without getting the free safety recall repairs done first.

It is a violation of federal law for car dealers to sell unrepaired recalled new cars to consumers. Used car buyers and their families need and deserve to have the same level of protection. Second-hand cars should not mean second-class when it comes to safety.

Those bills would eviscerate the existing protections for consumers in New Jersey, and make it virtually impossible for victims and survivors to seek justice against dealers who knowingly and deliberately hand them the keys to dangerous cars that pose an unreasonable risk to car buyers, their families and other passengers, and others who share the roads.

Those extremely anti-consumer, anti-safety measures would also eliminate protections for low-income vulnerable consumers and make it cost-prohibitive for attorneys or the Attorney General to enforce the laws, basically giving car dealers license to kill at will.

I strongly urge you to VETO S 2740 (Beach) / A 4292 (Greenwald). No other family should have to suffer such a horrendous loss, like I have in losing my precious Jewel, because a professional, licensed car dealer could not be bothered to take an unsafe car to get free safety recall repairs, or merely wanted to charge top dollar at retail for a vehicle that is a deathtrap on wheels.

Sincerely,

Alexander Brangman

CC: Honorable Gurbir Grewal, Attorney General, State of New Jersey