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**Memorandum in SUPPORT**

**S 6059 (Thomas) / A 5194 (DenDekker)**  
**Relates to safety recalls on used motor vehicles**

As a native-born New Yorker who was raised in the Bronx, and as the father of a precious, beautiful, talented daughter who was also born and raised in New York, and received her Master's Degree at 23 years old from Hofstra University on Long Island, I am writing to urge you to please vote AYE for S 6059 and A 5194, which will help spare other families from suffering the horrendous loss my family and I have suffered.

I know the deadly results that can occur when profits are put over lives. My beloved daughter Jewel was only 26 years old when she was killed by an unrepaired recalled Takata airbag in a Honda Civic. She was a gifted gymnast, gymnastics teacher and model. 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 started driving the Honda Civic, 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 19 other people – students, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, grandparents, and children – have been killed by exploding Takata airbags. Hundreds more have been maimed, including sustaining severe facial lacerations, suffering brain damage, and losing their eyesight.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than 100 million recalled cars with potentially explosive Takata airbags are still on the 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.

Given the serious risks posed by those millions of vehicles, and millions more cars with other life-threatening safety defects that are under recall, I strongly urge you to please vote AYE for S 6059 and A 5194, to help stop the cycle of dangerous, defective recalled used cars being re-sold to consumers, without getting the free safety recall repairs done first.

Car dealers need to be part of the solution to this public health crisis. If this legislation is enacted, they will be flat-out prohibited from selling those dangerously defective vehicles at retail to consumers. Thus, this legislation will significantly enhance existing protections available under state laws, and provide an important new tool for the Attorney General and other law enforcement agencies to use, to crack down on unscrupulous car dealers that persist in breaking state laws and endangering the public.

The bills would also increase the penalties for engaging in such reckless conduct, in an action brought on behalf of the People of New York, from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per violation, which should help deter dealers from thinking they can get away with violating the law, and writing off the penalties as the cost of doing business.

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*