

Against Bill – SB-377 Sponsor Senator Kagan

Opposition – NextCar Rental and Leasing

Mike DeLorenzo, President

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We are an affiliate of the Fitzgerald Auto Mall group and operate 17 rental car stores in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Baltimore City, BWI Airport, Frederick County, Montgomery County, Prince Georges County, and St Mary's County under the NextCar brand. We are the largest independent rental car fleet in the State Maryland. I have been operating car rental business's in Maryland for over 50 years.

SB-377 Assumes that vehicles are designed by the manufacturer have a spare tire. – About 1/3 to 1/2 of all vehicles made do not have a spare tire available from the manufacturer. This number is increasing each year as the manufacturers redesign new vehicles that come equipped with an air pump. We rent the vehicles as they are produced by the manufacturer. The redesigned vehicles typically do not have a place to put a spare tire, other than sitting in the trunk, unsecured. There is no tie down system designed by manufacturer. There is no special compartment under the truck mat. There is no jack or tire tools designed by the manufacturer. There is no location or tie down to secure the jack and or tire tools. There are no instructions showing the user the correct locations to place the jack to safely lift the car.

This alone is a huge legal liability as the manufacturer usually does the engineering to make the process of jacking up the car as safe as possible. This legislation must be redirected to the manufacturer of vehicles and is outside the scope of what a Car Rental company can control and manage.

The industry prefers to offer roadside services to our customers in the rare case that they experience a flat tire. Since the tire pressure monitoring systems have been put in vehicles the incidence of the flat tire caused by a tread puncture (nail, screw or piece of glass) have been reduced dramatically. The most common flat tire situations are now caused by accidents that involve the car running over a curb or some other road hazard that destroys the tire and usually damages the wheel.

I ask that you do not pass this bill as it will create a legal liability beyond the scope of our business expertise.

FYI – both of my family cars do not have a spare tire and it has not been a problem for the last 10 years. Sources say that the typical driver experiences 5 flat tires in their lifetime.

Senators, Thank You for your consideration!

Sincerely;

Mike DeLorenzo

President

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