

Miriam Fisher
Bangor
LD 320

To the Committee,

Passing LD 320 would be a win for Maine. Vehicle inspection laws are a legacy from a time when vehicles were less safe and road fatalities due to vehicle failure nearly 8x higher than they are today. Thirty-five states have already repealed these now-useless regulations, and Maine should also do so.

Research consistently finds no link between vehicle inspections and road safety. Congress' Government Accountability Office puts it this way: existing research "has generally been unable to establish any causal relationship." In addition, no auto insurers – though they regularly offer insurance discounts for anything and everything that has been proven to increase road safety – offer discounts to drivers in states with vehicle inspection requirements.

Maine's vehicle inspection serves as a de-facto tax on Mainers, who are already taxed at the fifth-highest rate in the nation, despite being one of the poorest states generally. Furthermore, inspections waste time, create an artificial demand for mechanics while offering them a powerful incentive to make up nonexistent defects to charge a vehicle owner to fix, and create a market for bribery.

With thanks for your consideration,
Miriam Fisher