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April 6, 2015

Assemblymember Anthony Rendon
Chair, Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee
State Capitol, Room 5136
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 24 (Nazarian) Transportation network companies: public safety requirements - Support
As Amended March 16, 2015
Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee – April 13, 2015

Dear Assemblymember Rendon:

The Consumer Federation of California (CFC) supports Assembly Bill 24, authored by Assemblymember Nazarian, which would require all drivers of charter party carriers such as limousines, buses and transportation network companies (TNCs) to be enrolled in the Department of Motor Vehicles Employer Pull Notice Program (which alerts an employer immediately when an arrest for a DUI or serious driving conviction has occurred), participate in a California Department of Justice (DOJ) fingerprint background check, and to participate in a drug and alcohol testing program.

Currently, TNCs are required to perform background checks on their drivers. However, these checks are done privately using a driver's social security number, and not through the DOJ's fingerprinting system. Furthermore, drivers are not currently tested under any drug and alcohol program, and it falls to passengers to report such occurrences after they have already hailed a vehicle.

Alarming reports of TNC drivers assaulting their customers have made headlines across the US, and the world, including a passenger who was kidnapped and sexually assaulted in Los Angeles, a passenger physically assaulted in San Francisco, and a driver who raped his passenger in New Delhi. In light of these disturbing occurrences, AB 24 represents a much-needed protection for consumers who use these transportation services.

I urge you to vote "Aye" on AB 244. If you or your staff has any questions, please contact Aaron Lewis, CFC Legislative Advocate, at (916) 498-9616.

Sincerely,

Richard Holober
Executive Director

cc: Members and Committee Staff, Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee
Assemblymember Nazarian