



NEWS RELEASE

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U.S. Representative Bobby Rush (D-Ill.) Introduces ‘Right to Equitable and Professional Auto Industry Repair’ Act (REPAIR Act)

This crucial Federal legislation is introduced to provide consumers rights to their vehicle’s data and safeguard a free and fair repair market.

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C., BETHESDA, Md., DIAMOND BAR, Calif., and WASHINGTON, D.C. – February 3, 2022– The Automotive Aftermarket Suppliers Association (AASA), Auto Care Association, CAR (Consumer Access to Repair) Coalition, and Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) applaud United States Rep. Bobby Rush (D-Ill.) for introducing the ‘Right to Equitable and Professional Auto Industry Repair (REPAIR) Act.’ The legislation, H.R. 6570, will ensure the preservation of consumer choice, a fair marketplace, and the continued safe operation of the nation’s 288 million registered passenger and commercial motor vehicles, 70% of which are maintained by independent repair facilities.

The REPAIR Act will accomplish this by:

- **Preserving consumer access to high quality and affordable vehicle repair** by ensuring that vehicle owners and their repairers of choice have access to necessary repair and maintenance tools and data as vehicles continue to become more advanced.
- **Ensuring access to critical repair tools and information.** All tools and equipment; wireless transmission of repair and diagnostic data; and access to on-board diagnostic and telematic systems needed to repair a vehicle must be made available to the independent repair industry.
- **Ensuring cybersecurity** by allowing vehicle manufacturers to secure vehicle-generated data and requiring the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to develop standards for how vehicle generated data necessary for repair can be accessed securely.
- **Providing transparency for consumers** by requiring vehicle owners be informed that they can choose where and how to get their vehicle repaired.
- **Creating a stakeholder advisory committee** and providing them with the statutory **authority to provide recommendations to the FTC on how to address emerging barriers** to vehicle repair and maintenance.



- Providing **ongoing enforcement** by establishing a process for consumers and independent repair facilities to file complaints with the FTC regarding alleged violations of the requirements in the bill and a requirement that the FTC act within five months of a claim.

As vehicle technology continues to advance, new barriers to a competitive auto repair market are emerging. These barriers limit consumer choice in where to repair their motor vehicles and increase the cost to repair and maintain vehicles. The REPAIR Act will reduce these barriers, putting consumers' interests first.

"Today is one of the most memorable and important days in the history of the aftermarket. The REPAIR Act will help guarantee consumers' rights and the ability of the industry to ensure their vehicles operate safely," commented Paul McCarthy, president and CEO of AASA. "From the repair shop to the board room, this effort has been fueled by the people of the aftermarket, and we couldn't be prouder of that alignment behind this important legislation. This effort supports principles of competition, consumer choice, and safety that we believe will benefit the whole automotive industry in the long run. We look forward to working with Representative Rush and our industry colleagues towards passage of this critical legislation."

"Ensuring consumer choice while retaining a free and competitive market across the vehicle lifecycle is at the heart of this legislation," said Bill Hanvey, president and CEO, Auto Care Association. "As personal transportation has become more essential than ever, we need to make sure that 288 million American motorists have access to affordable, safe and secure repairs for their vehicles. The tenets of this bill are principles-based, balanced, and address concerns shared across the automotive industry. Passage of this bill will keep consumers at the wheel while preserving an industry that contributes 4.4 million U.S. jobs and 2% GDP."

"The CAR Coalition is proud to support the REPAIR Act," Executive Director Justin Rzepka said. "According to a recent YouGov poll, 93 percent of respondents agreed that they should have the right to choose where and by whom their vehicle is repaired. The REPAIR Act will ensure consumers will have more, not fewer choices, when they need a repair shop. They will also have access to the data they need to make sure the repair is done safely. This is important, consumer-first legislation and we look forward to working with lawmakers and industry partners to pass it."

"Free and fair competition is a core value in the United States," said Daniel Ingber, Vice President of Government and Legal Affairs, SEMA. "Protecting a consumer's personal choice when purchasing, servicing, repairing, or modifying a motor vehicle is what the REPAIR Act will deliver. As technology continues to reshape the automotive landscape for vehicle safety, convenience and comfort, Congress needs to enact this important legislation. The REPAIR Act is essential to protecting access to vehicle systems, tools and information necessary for independent repair and modification services for millions of consumers."

"Americans should not be forced to bring their cars to more costly and inconvenient dealerships for repairs when independent auto repair shops are often cheaper and far more accessible," said Rep. Rush. "But as cars become more advanced, manufacturers are getting sole access to important vehicle data while independent repair shops are increasingly locked out. The status quo for auto repair is not tenable, and it is getting worse. If the monopoly on vehicle repair data continues, it would affect nearly 860,000 blue-collar workers and 274,000 service facilities."

The bill is introduced on the heels of three pivotal moments for consumer choice in repair. In November 2020, Massachusetts voters overwhelmingly voiced their support for Ballot Question 1 (also known as Right to Repair) with



75% of the vote, which preserves their right as vehicle owners to have access to and control of their vehicle's mechanical data necessary for service and repair at the shops of their choice. In May 2021, the [FTC released their Nixing the Fix report](#) which highlighted barriers that vehicle manufacturers have instituted to squash a consumer's right to repair. The FTC strongly supports expanding consumer repair options and found "scant evidence" for repair restrictions imposed by original equipment manufacturers. And in July 2021, President Biden issued the "[Promoting Competition in the American Economy](#)" executive order which encouraged the FTC to address anti-competitive repair restrictions.

About AASA

AASA (www.aftermarketsuppliers.org) exclusively serves manufacturers of aftermarket components, tools and equipment, and related products, an important part of the automotive parts manufacturing industry which supports 871,000 American jobs. AASA is a recognized industry change agent – promoting a collaborative industry environment, providing a forum to address issues and serving as a valued resource for members. AASA is the light vehicle aftermarket division of the Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA). "AASA, Connecting Members to What Matters." To learn more about other ways AASA connects members to what matters, visit aftermarketsuppliers.org.

About the Auto Care Association

The Auto Care Association is the voice of the auto care industry, a \$380 billion plus industry comprised of more than 4.4 million American workers. Providing advocacy, educational, networking, technology, market intelligence and data resources to serve the collective interests of members, the Auto Care Association serves the entire supply chain of the automotive aftermarket: businesses that manufacture, distribute and sell motor vehicle parts, accessories, tools, equipment, materials and supplies, and perform vehicle service, maintenance and repair. To learn more, visit www.autocare.org.

About the CAR Coalition

The CAR Coalition is committed to preserving and protecting consumer choice and affordable vehicle repair by ensuring competition in the automotive collision parts industry. Members include: Allstate, American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA), Automotive Body Parts Association (ABPA), Automotive Manufacturers Equipment Compliance Agency, Inc. (AMECA), AutoZone, Certified Automotive Parts Association (CAPA), Diamond Standard, Geotab, KSI Auto Parts, and LKQ Corporation. Learn more at carcoalition.com

About SEMA

SEMA represents the \$48 billion a year specialty equipment automotive aftermarket industry. The trade association includes more than 7,500 businesses nationwide that manufacture, distribute, market and retail specialty parts and accessories for vehicles. The industry employs over one million Americans and produces appearance accessories, racing and performance parts, restoration equipment, and high-technology products for passenger and recreational vehicles. Learn more at sema.org.