



NEWS

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ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT OVERTURNS A VERY VERDICT VINDICATING THE AMERICAN CONSUMER

Washington DC: After almost three years of deliberation, the Illinois Supreme Court has stood up for the interests of American consumers who are faced with the horrendous impact of the monopoly held by the car companies in the crash parts used in collision repair. “We welcome this landmark decision by the Court to endorse competition instead of the car company monopoly that has kept the cost of collision repair artificially high and contributed to high numbers of vehicles totaled because of those high costs,” said Jack Gillis, Executive Director of the non-profit Certified Automotive Parts Association.

The Certified Automotive Parts Association is an independent, third-party, certification organization which sets standards and certifies the quality of parts made by companies as competitive alternatives to car company parts. Parts certified by CAPA enable consumers to have a high quality, fairly priced alternative to expensive car company parts.

“Hopefully, this decision will reverse a trend in the crash repair industry since the decision by the lower court in 1999,” said Gillis. “Unfortunately, consumers needing crash repairs since 1999 have found themselves victims of this monopoly by paying too much for the parts they need or, worse, having a perfectly repairable car totaled because the parts are so expensive. “Ironically, car companies can charge what ever they want for their parts until they get to a price point that forces us to buy another one of their cars. Until now it has been a lose-lose situation for consumers and a win-win for the car companies.”

Even before the verdict in 1999, car companies had a monopoly because they supply about 80% of the auto body repair parts needed after an accident. “This is why a simple 5 mph bump into a pole can cost consumers hundreds, even thousands of dollars in repairs. The parts needed to fix our cars are just too expensive,” said Gillis.

“This decision is a victory for consumers across the country who will benefit from the presence of high quality, competitively priced crash repair parts. The lower court decision had threatened the very existence of the competitive crash parts. This ruling rectifies that mistake,” stated Gillis.

The Certified Automotive Parts Association, founded in 1987, is the nation’s only independent, non-profit, third party crash parts quality certification organization. CAPA certification identifies, for both consumers and the industry, those parts that meet our high quality standards for fit, form, finish, material content and corrosion resistance. For more information see www.CAPAcertified.org.

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