



# NEWS

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## **NCOIL Votes to Continue Efforts to Develop Aftermarket Part Quality Bill**

Austin, TX – The National Conference of Insurance Legislation (NCOIL) Property and Casualty Committee today voted to continue their efforts to address aftermarket part quality through a Model Bill. The bipartisan effort will be the subject of their Spring 2011 meeting in Washington DC. “The good news is that there is a clear sense among the committee members of the need to come to a resolution in this long standing issue,” said Jack Gillis, CAPA Executive Director.

At the hearing Gillis addressed two key concerns expressed by certain committee members in the past: Is this important to consumers and what are the safety ramifications? Gillis presented the recent “consumer reports.org” article which stated, “In general, consumers should insist on replacement parts built to original-equipment specifications, and standards such as CAPA Certification can make it easier to identify quality components.” (Consumer Reports Cars Blog Article: <http://blogs.consumerreports.org/cars/2010/11/tests-show-certified-aftermarket-bumpers-to-be-a-viable-alternative-.html>). In addition, Gillis showed the committee video of the recent IIHS demonstration crash testing in which both low and high speed tests on vehicle bumpers were conducted by this prestigious testing organization. The committee saw the low speed damageability tests which resulted in identical repair costs between the part meeting CAPA Standards and the car company brand part. In addition they saw the high speed tests in which IIHS declared the performance between the two parts to be essentially the same. (IIHS STATUS REPORT: <http://www.iihs.org/externaldata/srdata/docs/sr4511.pdf>).

Prior to the decision to postpone voting on the bill, Center for Auto Safety Executive Director Clarence Ditlow was on hand to present the consumer benefits associated with replacement parts certified by CAPA. In addition, to provide a repairer perspective on the importance of these parts was Bob Anderson, of Anderson’s Automotive Services of Sheffield, Ohio and CAPA Board chairman.

At the hearing, George Cook representing the automobile manufacturers expressed appreciation for the efforts CAPA was making in terms of verifying safety. Gillis has reached out to both the car companies and collision repair associations in order to move the part quality issue forward in a positive manner. “Nobody benefits from poor quality replacement parts, and the next few months will provide us with the opportunity to address concerns and develop a bill that will truly benefit both consumers and the marketplace,” Gillis said.

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*The Certified Automotive Parts Association, founded in 1987, is the nation’s only independent, non-profit, certification organization for automotive crash parts whose sole purpose it to ensure that both consumers and the industry have the means to identify high quality parts via the CAPA Quality Seal. CAPA is an ANSI accredited standards developer for competitive crash repair parts. For more information see [CAPAcertified.org](http://CAPAcertified.org).*