



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 2011

Contact: Deborah G. Klouser
Phone: (202) 737-2212
Email: debbie@CAPAcertified.org

CAPA Applauds California Senate Action on Air Bag Measure

Washington, D.C. - The Certified Automotive Parts Association (CAPA) today congratulated the California Senate for its leadership in passing Senate Bill 869. This measure, introduced by Senator Leland Yee and co-sponsored by both the Center for Auto Safety (CAS) and CAPA would require that airbags be returned to their original operating condition when replaced during collision repair.

“This bill provides California consumers with the strongest airbag protection in the country by strengthening existing penalties as well as requiring repairers to return them to their original operating condition after a repair,” said Jack Gillis CAPA’s Executive Director.

According to a report from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), there have been a number of incidents where deaths have occurred as a result of the failure to replace the air bag when repairing a vehicle after an accident. Because there is no competition for air bag replacement parts, the cost of replacing an airbag system is very high.

“At this point it is unknown how many vehicles are on California highways where the occupants innocently assume that the vehicle they are driving has a proper operating airbag. The benefit of SB 869 is that it will have no impact on the practices of responsible body shops who wouldn’t consider putting a vehicle back on the road without functioning airbags. On the other hand, it will be a serious deterrent to those who participate in this practice,” Gillis said.

“The passage of SB 869 positions California to be one of only two states (Utah being the other) with such a life saving measure and Senator Yee should be commended for his leadership in taking this strong pro-consumer stand.”

###

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 www.CAPAcertified.org.