



7101 Wisconsin Avenue
Suite 1300
Bethesda, MD 20814
www.autocare.org

T: 301.654.6664
F: 301.654.3299
info@autocare.org

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon Jr.
Chairman, House Corporation Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street.
Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

Chairman Solomon and Members of the Committee:

The Auto Care Association is a national trade association comprised of more than 3000-member companies and affiliates that manufacturer, distribute and sell motor vehicle parts, accessories, services, tools, equipment, materials, and supplies. In short, we represent the entire supply chain of the auto industry.

On behalf of the industry, we are writing to express our concern and opposition to HB 6325-Motor Vehicle Replacement Parts and Insurance. This bill would mandate that if the used part specified by the insurer does not result in the vehicle being repaired to its condition prior to the loss, the insurer shall then specify the use of an OEM part and prohibiting the use of aftermarket parts.

This specific language would change the competitive balance in the repair industry. Not only would this legislation create higher priced repair costs for consumers but would threaten an industry that provides close to 10,000 jobs in the state, representing \$1.9B in economic activity and providing \$565M in wages from business outlets such as manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, and related services will be affected in the state. Aftermarket businesses provide residents with safe, affordable options for maintaining and repairing their vehicles.

Additionally, there is no body of research, individual study, or any data to support the implication that aftermarket parts are inferior to OE parts. In fact, they are often produced by the same company that produced the original equipment (OE) part but may come in a different box. The only difference is the OE part often costs more than the non-OE branded equivalent, meaning increased repair and insurance costs for consumers. Further, since aftermarket companies can observe the OE part in use, aftermarket companies are often able to correct problems with the component that were discovered after the vehicle was on the road. Such actions translates' into the ability of aftermarket parts to provide motorist with improved vehicle reliability and safety.

We respectfully urge you to **VOTE NO on H 6235**, as the unintended consequences for consumers and the negative impact to Rhode Island businesses would do more harm than good.

Sincerely,

Tom Tucker
Senior Director, State Government Affairs



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