

April 28, 2026

Representative Carol Hagan McEntee
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House 8076 – AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE --
 MANDATORY ARBITRATION PROVISION

Dear Chair McEntee:

This statement in support of House 8076 is submitted by the American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA).¹ H.8076 increases the liability value cap from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for plaintiff's optional arbitration in all motor vehicle insurance contracts. APCIA supports this change because it allows more cases to qualify for potential arbitration and enhances plaintiff flexibility.

Property and casualty insurers have long supported arbitration because it is an effective, efficient, and speedy means of resolving disputes without destroying business and customer relationships. This last point is key. Not only is litigation costly and time-consuming, but the strong adversarial nature of the process tends to erode relationships between the litigants.

Because it is generally less formal and more “user-friendly,” arbitration tends to minimize hostility and to emphasize post-dispute relationships. This is especially true in Rhode Island which has the highly successful Court-Annexed Arbitration Program.² H.8076 would align the arbitration cap in auto insurance policies with the cap utilized for this program. This Program prides itself on efficient resolution of claims, benefitting insurers, consumers, and litigators:

During an arbitration hearing, evidence is presented in an informal setting to a court-trained attorney/arbitrator who, after considering the same, makes an award in the case usually within ten (10) days of the hearing.

Arbitration not only speeds case resolution but also saves litigants and taxpayers millions of dollars a year by eliminating many of the costs associated with lengthy, formal trials. Arbitration also frees courtrooms and allows judicial officers to concentrate on more serious or complex civil and criminal cases. Over the last five (5) years, fifty-three percent (53%) of those cases designated to court-annexed arbitration have resulted in disposition.

As a result, APCIA respectfully requests your support of H.8076.

Very truly yours,



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¹ Representing 67% of the U.S. property casualty insurance market, APCIA promotes and protects the viability of private competition for the benefit of consumers and insurers. APCIA members represent all sizes, structures, and regions, which protect families, communities, and businesses in the U.S. and across the globe. Several APCIA members are located in Rhode Island and many more do business here. APCIA members are integral to the state of Rhode Island. They write 76% of the property casualty insurance sold in this state. The P&C insurance industry employs over 3,200 Rhode Islanders, provides annual assistance of \$1.5 billion in claim payments to help customers in the state, and contributes over \$160 million annually to the state in premium taxes.

² <https://www.courts.ri.gov/Courts/superiorcourt/Pages/Court-Annexed-Arbitration.aspx>