

February 14, 2024

**Honorable Joseph Solomon, Jr**  
**Rhode Island House Committee on Corporations**  
**82 Smith Street**  
**Providence, RI 02903**

Dear Chairman Solomon

My name is Tod Moore, Manager, Grassroots & Advocacy, and I am submitting testimony against H7264 on behalf of the Auto Care Association. I appreciate the opportunity to present our concerns before the House Committee on Corporations.

The Auto Care Association represents over 3,000 member companies and affiliates, embodying the auto care industry—a sector that contributes over \$400 billion to the U.S. economy and employs more than 4.5 million professionals. In Rhode Island alone, the auto care industry has created over 7,900 jobs and generated \$1.8 billion.

House Bill H7264 proposes restrictions on the use of aftermarket parts in repairs for newer vehicles. While ensuring consumer protection and safety is paramount, this bill, in its current form, raises several concerns:

- Firstly, aftermarket parts are not mere imitations but are, in fact, high-quality components that often meet or exceed OEM specifications. These parts undergo stringent testing and certification processes for the sake of safety. Many Tier 1 suppliers manufacture both OEM and aftermarket parts, ensuring that consumers have access to safe, high-quality options.
- Secondly, aftermarket parts provide a cost-effective alternative to OEM parts. This is crucial for consumers, especially in a challenging economy where transportation costs constitute a significant portion of household expenses. By restricting the use of aftermarket parts, H7264 could inadvertently increase repair costs, impacting both insurance premiums and out-of-pocket expenses for vehicle owners.
- Third, availability of aftermarket parts plays a critical role in maintaining a resilient supply chain. Limiting these options could exacerbate existing supply shortages, leading to longer repair times, higher costs, and increased total loss claims.
- Finally, market competition is essential for ensuring consumer choice and keeping costs low. H7264 could potentially limit competition by mandating the use of OEM parts, thereby reducing options for consumers, and possibly leading to higher prices.

While we support measures to ensure the safety and satisfaction of consumers, we believe that H7264, as proposed, may have unintended negative consequences on the auto care industry, as well as consumers and the broader economy. We advocate for a balanced approach that allows for the use of both OEM and high-quality aftermarket parts to ensure consumer choice, competitive pricing, and industry innovation.



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I respectfully request that the committee consider these points and the potential impact of H7264 on consumers and the auto care industry. Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective on this matter.

Respectfully,

Tod Moore  
Manager, Grassroots & Advocacy  
Auto Care Association