



February 13, 2024

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
Chairperson House Committee on Corporations  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence Rhode Island 02903

RE: H-7287 Relating to Insurance-Unfair Claims Settlement Practices Act

Dear Chair Solomon,

I am writing on behalf of the Auto Body Association of Rhode Island in opposition to H-7287 which would make several amendments to the Unfair Claims Settlement Practices Act. The Auto Body Association is a statewide professional association committed to a rigid code of ethics. We ensure the integrity of the collision repair industry and serve the public through honesty, quality, and service.

The provisions in the Unfair Claims Practices Act are designed to protect consumers. We are opposed to this legislation because it will roll back many of these protections and have an adverse effect on the consumer.

Increasing the number of business days to respond to a request from an auto body shop and increasing the damages necessary to have the work appraised, is not in the best interest of consumers. These changes would allow insurers to steer more claims to their preferred repair shops by enticing consumers with promises to start the work sooner at those shops. Changes to the time limits also cause delays with providing customers with rental cars.

We are also opposed to allowing compilations used by the insurance industry to determine fair market value. The compilations used by the automotive industry such as NADA are readily available to all parties whereas, the insurance industry compilations are not. Insurance companies use the automotive industry valuations to set rates they charge consumers. They should not be allowed to select a less expensive rate from an insurance industry valuation to pay a claim.

Very Truly Yours,

*Stephen Alves*  
Stephen Alves