



April 2, 2024

The Honorable Robert Cravin
Chairperson House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence Rhode Island 02903

RE: H-7974 Relating to Insurance-Unfair Claims Settlement Practices Act

Dear Chair Cravin,

I am writing on behalf of the Auto Body Association of Rhode Island in support of H-7974, sponsored by Representative Jon Brien, which would make 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 Settlement Practices Act are designed to protect consumers. We are in support of this legislation because it will allow a consumer, who is aggrieved or harmed by the unfair actions of an insurer to bring an action in the District or Superior Court based on the amount in controversy. The consumer would first have to exhaust any administrative procedures established by the Department of Business Regulations.

H-7974 would protect consumers from the small number of insurance companies who use improper and illegal actions to reduce a claim or settlement. This practice would ensure greater fairness to the vehicle owner.

Very Truly Yours,

Randy Bottella

Randy Bottella
President, Auto Body Association of Rhode Island