



Preserving consumer choice and affordable repair in the automotive collision parts industry

FOX News Highlights Pro-Consumer Right to Repair Bills for Vehicle Owners

WASHINGTON, D.C., (October 24, 2022) – The CAR Coalition, a growing group of independent automotive parts, management and repair companies, associations, and insurers committed to preserving consumer choice and affordable vehicle repair, continues to advocate for pro-consumer right to repair legislation that will give vehicle owners and independent repair shop owners access to critical vehicle data. This effort was recently highlighted in a [segment on FOX News' America's Newsroom](#) which focused on the need for expanded choices and access for vehicle owners and repairers.

“The cost of car repair is exceptionally high right now and lawmakers must take steps to lower costs for consumers,” CAR Coalition Executive Director Justin Rzepka said. “As made clear in this segment, independent repair shops need access to vehicle data to serve their customers. What’s more, consumers shouldn’t be restricted in where or how they repair their vehicles. The CAR Coalition continues to fight for this access through the SMART and REPAIR Acts.”

In states and Washington, D.C., the auto right to repair movement is gaining ground. In January of 2022, in the days leading up to the Biden administration White House Competition Council meeting, President Biden tweeted, “When you own a product, you should be able to repair it yourself. That’s why I included support for the ‘right to repair’ in my Executive Order.” Then in February, Congressman Bobby Rush (D-IL) introduced the REPAIR Act (H.R. 6570), and throughout 2022, the bill has gained 12 additional cosponsors: six Republicans and six Democrats. The SMART Act was introduced by Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) in 2021 and currently has three Republican and three Democrat sponsors. [Two recent academic papers](#) also highlighted the need for these reforms.

The REPAIR Act will:

- Preserve consumer access to high quality and affordable vehicle repair by ensuring that vehicle owners and their repairers of choice have access to necessary repair and maintenance tools and data as vehicles continue to become more advanced.
- Ensure access to critical repair tools and information. All tools and equipment; wireless transmission of repair and diagnostic data; and access to on-board diagnostic and telematic systems needed to repair a vehicle must be made available to the independent repair industry.
- Ensure cybersecurity by allowing vehicle manufacturers to secure vehicle-generated data and requiring the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to develop standards for how vehicle generated data necessary for repair can be accessed securely.

The SMART Act will:



- Narrowly amend U.S. design patent law to reduce from 14 years to 2.5 years the time car manufacturers can enforce design patents on collision repair parts (fenders, quarter panels, doors, etc.) against alternative parts suppliers.
- Allow alternative parts suppliers to research, develop, make, and test parts on a not-for-sale basis during the new patent period.
- Allow alternative parts suppliers to sell an aftermarket collision repair part once 2.5 years have elapsed from the date of patent.
- Only aftermarket repair parts.

For more information about the REPAIR and SMART Acts, please visit carcoalition.com.

ABOUT THE CAR COALITION

The CAR Coalition is committed to preserving and protecting consumer choice and affordable vehicle repair by ensuring competition in the automotive collision parts industry. Members include: Allstate, American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA), Automotive Body Parts Association (ABPA), Automotive Manufacturers Equipment Compliance Agency, Inc. (AMECA), AutoZone, Carparts.com, Certified Automotive Parts Association (CAPA), Diamond Standard, Farmers, KSI Auto Parts, LKQ Corporation, and Tire Pros. Learn more at carcoalition.com.

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