



*A bimonthly news update from ASA's legislative activities.*

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**TakingTheHill.com**

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**Recent activities of ASA's Washington, D.C., office ...**

**ASA Co-Hosts Second Annual Vehicle Safety Inspection Forum**

On Dec. 2, the Automotive Service Association (ASA), ASA-Midwest and the Missouri Alliance of Automotive Service Providers (AASP-MO), held the Second Annual Vehicle Safety Inspection Forum.

Attendees heard presentations from a number of automotive safety experts who shared their own experiences with safety inspections and collaborated on strategies to improve public awareness of the importance of preventative maintenance.

Forum participants included:

- Doug Woolverton, Hunter Engineering
- Paul Meyer, Missouri State Highway Patrol
- JoJo Heselmeyer, Texas Department of Public Safety
- Lester Elder, Missouri State Highway Patrol
- Paul Rehbein, Missouri State Highway Patrol
- Jade Winfree, U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)
- Steve Hoskins, Motor Vehicle Bureau, Missouri Department of Revenue
- Ben Steinman, ASA-Midwest
- Mike Moehlenkamp, AASP-Missouri
- Joe Battista, Parsons Engineering

One of the major issues raised during the forum was the lack of data comparing the numbers of automotive accidents, injuries and deaths in states with safety inspection programs to states without safety programs.

Jade Winfree, a senior researcher involved with a recent GAO safety inspections report, said that although the majority of automotive administrators in states with safety inspections were confident about the benefits of the programs, an increase in federal guidance, collaboration and information sharing could improve their overall quality. Capt. Lester Elder echoed Winfree's remarks about the need for this data at the state level.

The Forum is being made available to view on ASA's legislative website, [www.TakingTheHill.com](http://www.TakingTheHill.com). ASA is planning a third forum for 2016 in Texas.

**ASA Testifies on Parts Procurement Legislation**

The Michigan Senate Committee on Insurance, chaired by Sen. Joe Hune (MI-22), held a hearing on Senate Bill (S.B.) 430, a bill to amend the insurance code to prohibit insurers from requiring automotive repairers to use a specific vendor or process to procure parts and other materials.

Dan Risley, Automotive Service Association (ASA) president/executive director, joined with Ray Fisher, ASA-Michigan president, to testify before the Insurance Committee in support of S.B. 430. They explained to the members that this legislation would benefit Michigan's repairers by facilitating free-market competition among parts providers and allowing shop owners to do business with vendors of their choice. In turn, this freedom would benefit consumers, small businesses and local

communities.

"Insurance companies should not be mandating the use of a specific software, technology or vendor for purchasing parts," Risley said. "Independent collision repairers should be able to choose the vendors with whom they would like to do business. Collision repairers have a vested interest in buying the highest quality parts at a competitive price, choosing a vendor that can provide timely and efficient service and one that stands behind their products. That vested interest is the vehicle owner, their customer."

Fisher added, "This bill is common sense legislation and, when passed, will be a great victory for Michigan consumers as well as the automotive repair community at large. This situation is not unique to my state, and it is my hope that Michigan can serve as a model for repairers in other states facing this issue."

**ASA and Alliance Unveil New Aftermarket Resource**

The Automotive Service Association (ASA) and the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers (Alliance) held a press conference to present a new information resource tool for automobile repairers. The ASA OEM Resource Center is a joint project designed to consolidate and simplify access to tool information for repairers.

During the press conference, representatives from ASA and the Alliance demonstrated the features of the database and explained the benefits of a consolidated access point for service-tool data from the original equipment manufacturers.

"This is a great opportunity for the aftermarket community and the automobile manufacturers to facilitate information sharing," Dan Risley, ASA president/executive director, said. "By providing access to tool information in one location, automakers will be able to communicate with independent repairers directly, and the repairers will be able to get the answers to their questions from one source."

"Automakers make complete diagnostic and repair tools, information and training materials available to dealers, independent repair professionals and interested consumers alike," said Daniel Gage, director of communications and public affairs for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers. "But as vehicles become more and more complex, the amount of resources presented by manufacturers can become overwhelming for techs. Alliance members welcome this partnership with ASA to simplify access to the tools and information needed to fix any vehicle and maintain customer satisfaction."

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