



September 10, 2019

**RE: Support House Bills 4923 and 4924**

Dear:

I am writing on behalf of the Alliance of Automobile manufacturers to express our support for House Bills 4923 and 4924 which seek to prevent the trafficking of counterfeit supplemental restraint systems and nonfunctional airbags. The Alliance is a trade association of twelve car and light truck manufacturers including BMW Group, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, Ford Motor Company, General Motors Company, Jaguar Land Rover, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz USA, Mitsubishi Motors, Porsche, Toyota, Volkswagen Group of North America, and Volvo Car USA.

Supplemental restraint systems, commonly referred to as airbags, are one of the most important safety features of today's automobile. These devices have saved countless lives and reduced the severity of injury of those involved in automobile accidents an immeasurable number of times.

Counterfeit airbags present a serious public safety risk to consumers. Counterfeit airbags are known to malfunction by either failing to inflate or by inflating but expelling dangerous shrapnel. We believe regulation of counterfeit airbags will play an important role in maintaining the integrity of this life-saving device.

The United States has been inundated with counterfeit supplemental restraint systems and nonfunctional airbags that are sold across the nation and have resulted in serious injury and death to motorists. The significant majority of these airbags are imported from China, sold online and then installed in the vehicle of an unknowing consumer. While federal authorities have been highly supportive of efforts to stop the flow of these oftentimes-deadly products, federal authority to prosecute is limited. Federal authorities can only act in defense of federal trademark law, and because many of the airbags do not carry a registered trademark, the counterfeit airbags and supplemental restraint systems cannot be seized.

To combat this problem, automakers and other interested stakeholders have worked to support federal and state law enforcement investigations and prosecutions, and worked to pass state laws that give law enforcement the tools they need to prosecute these bad actors.

Similar legislation has successfully passed in 21 states and we urge you to give law enforcement in Michigan the same tools. Please contact me with any questions.



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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Renée Gibson  
Director, State Affairs  
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers