



One Woodward Avenue • Suite 1900 • Detroit, Michigan • 48226

November 5, 2019

Testimony to the House Transportation Committee in Support of HB 4923-24

MICHauto is a statewide economic development initiative of the Detroit Regional Chamber, dedicated to promoting, retaining, and growing the automotive and mobility industry in Michigan. MICHauto embodies a public-private strategy, championing Michigan as the global epicenter of the automotive and mobility industry and providing a platform for collaboration on advocacy and talent attraction and development.

A top priority of every auto manufacturer is the safety of their customers. Even the best of efforts, however, are in vain when the safety equipment installed in their automobiles is not being properly repaired and replaced. In recent years, foreign and domestic counterfeiters have flooded the U.S. auto industry with fraudulent and defective airbags.

These counterfeit airbags create a very real and dangerous situation for Michigan's motorists, often without the motorist's knowledge or consent. Counterfeit airbags provide little to no protection in a crash; since 2008, there have been at least 24 deaths and 278 cases of severe injury caused by these defective airbags. This only represents crashes that have already occurred; there are an unknown number of airbags that continue to be installed in the cars of Michigan residents that are incapable of preventing injury in the case of an accident.

House Bills 4923-24 strive to ensure that airbags are properly installed and thus continue to save the lives of Michigan's residents by strengthening Michigan's criminal code and providing law enforcement with the necessary tools to prosecute this form of fraud. This legislation is consistent with laws that have passed in 21 states with overwhelming bipartisan support, and serve as an example of Michigan's commitment to the safety of our residents.

On behalf of MICHauto and a broad representation of Michigan's automotive industry, I encourage this committee to continue your great work of protecting Michigan's residents, and urge your consideration and passage of House Bills 4923-24. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or further discussion at 248.709.4866 or jpuscas@michauto.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Puscas", is written over a printed name.

Jason Puscas

Director, Government and Community Affairs
MICHauto