



March 23, 2021

In Support of HB21-1193

To the Members of the Colorado General Assembly

AAA Colorado is proud to support HB21-1193, “Consumer Protection Supplemental Restraint Systems,” sponsored by Rep. Matt Gray and Sen. Kevin Priola. This bill calls for the adoption of model legislation which we are confident will protect Colorado motorists and consumers.

In recent years, the U.S. market has become flooded with cheap and ineffective counterfeit and “nonfunctional” airbags. Counterfeit airbags pose a serious health risk since they cannot be relied on to prevent injuries during a crash. In study after study, research has found that these counterfeit bags fail to deploy, or worse, release a deadly metal shrapnel during their deployment. Most of these counterfeit airbags are imported from China and then sold online to be installed in the vehicles of unaware and vulnerable consumers. In 2012, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Homeland Security issued a joint consumer advisory regarding this issue.

We believe the Colorado General Assembly can act decisively to protect motorists through its passage of HB21-1193. While federal authorities have been highly supportive of efforts to stop the flow of these dangerous, often deadly products, they are limited in their authority. Federal authorities can only act in defense of federal trademark law, and most of the airbag and airbag components in question don’t carry a registered trademark – so federal actors cannot seize them or keep them out of circulation.

AAA Colorado is grateful for Rep. Gray and Sen. Priola’s attention to this issue, and their overriding concern for the safety of Coloradans. This bill will provide motorists the confidence that the supplemental restraint system in their vehicle will work as intended by the manufacturer, protecting a car’s inhabitants during a crash.

We encourage the adoption of HB21-1193 and appreciate your consideration and opportunity to share our position.

All the very best,

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