

**INDEPENDENT
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Warren C. Ruppard
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**Testimony of the Independent Insurance Agents of Connecticut
to the Insurance And Real Estate Committee
On Committee Bill 5072
An Act Concerning Automotive Glass Work**

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna and members of the Insurance and Real Estate committee, my name is Warren Ruppard and I am President of the Independent Insurance Agents of Connecticut. The Independent Insurance Agents of Connecticut is a trade association which has been located in Connecticut and has represented independent agents for 114 years. IIAC currently represents more than 400 member agencies and their associates as well as their 3500-plus employees. I come to you today to speak on Committee Bill 5072 – An Act Concerning Automotive Glass Work.

The Independent Insurance Agents of Connecticut strongly supports small business and all efforts to maintain a level playing field in a competitive marketplace. Section 1 of this bill clarifies the requirements of an appraiser and includes specific language on automotive glass work. IIAC supports these changes and the right of a consumer to choose a motor vehicle repair shop or a glass shop in the event they have damage to their motor vehicle.

The Independent Insurance Agents of Connecticut request that the members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee support the principal that is included in the language of Committee Bill 5072, that a consumer has the right to choose an automotive or glass repair shop. We offer our assistance to the committee and the auto glass repair industry as this issue evolves.