

Written testimony in support of SB 1040, AAC Counterfeit and Substandard Airbags  
Submitted by Jane Murphy on behalf of General Motors  
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Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero and members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Jane Murphy and on behalf of General Motors I would like to make some general remarks in support of Senate Bill 1040. Of the many issues dealt with by the auto industry, passenger safety is of the greatest concern. In combination with safety belts and superior vehicle design, air bags are a critical component to help protect passengers. Air bags are specifically designed to work as part of the overall occupant restraint system in the specific vehicle for which it was designed. Air bag systems are highly sophisticated mechanisms that provide a critical safety function in motor vehicles that demand the highest degree of assurance regarding part stewardship and installation.

There has been an increase in the use of counterfeit and non-functional airbags in motor vehicles. These counterfeit airbags do not perform to the standard of the original manufacturer's replacement equipment, and therefore compromise the safety of a vehicle's occupants.

General Motors believes the only way to ensure a functioning air bag is to replace any used air bag with a new original equipment manufacturer air bag. We agree with David Strickland, Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), when he stated "We expect all motor vehicle equipment to meet federal safety standards – and air bags in particular play a central role in keeping drivers and passengers safe in the event of a crash. That's why it's critical that vehicle owners work with their automotive dealers and repair professionals to ensure they use the appropriate, original equipment parts in the event they need to replace their air bag."

This bill will make it unlawful to knowingly install a counterfeit air bag. Therefore, we request your support of Senate Bill 1040 to help end the use of non-functional counterfeit air bags.

Thank you.