Momentum Grows for Next Generation of Right to Repair Legislation

55 BIPARTISAN COSPONORS OF LEGISLATION, 1000 NEW INDEPENDENT REPAIR SHOPS JOIN COALITION

NEW WIRELESS TECHNOLOGIES THREATEN CAR OWNERS RIGHT TO GET CAR REPAIRS WHEREVER THEY CHOOSE

Massachusetts Right to Repair today announced that its support is growing, as 55 members of the Legislature have either sponsored or cosponsored legislation to update the Commonwealth’s Right to Repair law and more than 1,000 new independent repair shops across the state have joined the Coalition this year.

Massachusetts Right to Repair is a coalition of Massachusetts independent repair shop owners, employees, and consumers. The Massachusetts Right to Repair Coalition supports bipartisan legislation filed in January by twelve State Representatives and two State Senators to update the Commonwealth’s Right to Repair law. The legislation would further protect Massachusetts car owners’ rights to choose where they have their cars repaired, shop around for the best deal, and control who has access to the repair and diagnostic data compiled and transmitted by their car.

By 2020, advancements in vehicle technology will result in more than 90% of new cars being equipped to transmit real-time diagnostic and repair information wirelessly to vehicle manufacturers, threatening the rights of Massachusetts car consumers to choose to get their cars fixed at trusted independent repair shops or do the work themselves.
In February, the Coalition launched a grassroots and advertising campaign to educate Massachusetts policymakers, businesses and consumers about the threat that wireless technologies, sometimes referred to as telematics, pose to consumer repair choice and small, local businesses. Right to Repair radio ads ran statewide on 9 stations in Boston, Worcester, and Springfield for two weeks in February and are presently running for two weeks in March statewide on 9 stations plus Pandora, along with digital ads.

Despite the overwhelming 86% vote of support at the ballot in 2012 and the subsequent 2013 law guaranteeing access to independent repair shops, these shops are increasingly facing the prospect of having limited or no access to diagnostic and repair information now that automakers are increasingly restricting access through using rapidly expanding wireless technologies on their vehicles that are not covered under current law. If independent repair shops can’t get direct access to diagnostic and repair information from the car, then car owners have no choice but to be steered by vehicle manufacturers towards more expensive automaker authorized repair options. The update to the law would also give car owners control over the diagnostic and repair data generated by their car so that they could opt to provide access to any dealer, repair shop, or automaker that they choose during the lifetime of their car.

Further information and the Coalition’s radio ads may be found at massrighttorepair.org

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