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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4306

June 4, 2003

NFIB Poll Shows Strong Support for Making Information to Repair Cars Available to All

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to encourage your cosponsorship for "The Motor Vehicle Owners' Right to Repair Act," to be reintroduced and designated as H.R. 2735. In short, this bill seeks to restore the ability of motor vehicle owners to choose where they repair their vehicles, whether it is an independent garage or dealership, and whether they would like repairs to be conducted with original or non-original automobile parts. Motorists have enjoyed these choices almost since the beginning of the automobile, but new vehicle On-Board Diagnostic computer systems, originally required by the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, have made it more difficult for some repair facilities to get the information they need to make the repair. As competition becomes restricted, it can cause higher prices for repairs and parts replacement.

H.R. 2735 in no way attempts to restrict motorists from patronizing car dealership repair shops. For some, this may be the best option. Rather, HR 2735 ensures that a motorist has options when deciding where to bring their car for repairs or what part they want to use by requiring that non-proprietary information needed to repair these diagnostic computer systems is made readily available.

On behalf of its 600,000 members, the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) recently endorsed H.R. 2735, following the results of its latest NFIB Member Ballot. "By restoring competition to the automobile repair market, the Motor Vehicle Owners' Right to Repair Act will help protect consumers and small businesses."

NFIB's Member Ballot asked:

Should automobile manufacturers be required to disclose to car buyers and repair shops information needed to repair or maintain their vehicles?

Yes: 77% No: 15% Undecided: 6% Not interested: 2%

NFIB joins many other organizations in support of H.R. 2735, including the American Automobile Association (AAA), which recently stated, "when a car buyer drives off the lot, they've bought more than just the vehicle, they should also own the information necessary to have it diagnosed and repaired. AAA believes that H.R. 2735 ensures that consumers can choose the kind of service that is best suited for their particular needs."

If you would like to have your name added to the list of original cosponsors, please contact Theresa Lavery at 5-2002.

Sincerely,


Joe Barton
Member of Congress

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