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U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee Holds Hearing on National VIN Database

Earlier today, the House Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade held [a hearing](#) entitled "Legislative Hearing on VIN Database and Auto Whistleblower Bills." The hearing included discussion of a proposal that would mandate the U.S. DOT create a National VIN Database requiring states to submit vehicle owner data (PII) and to send updates to the system any time a vehicle owner changed its record. The purpose of the bill is to give vehicle manufacturers quick access to the most current vehicle owner information when conducting vehicle recall notifications.

AAMVA has been in discussion with the House Energy and Commerce Committee on this legislation and submitted an opposition statement into the Congressional Record:

AAMVA's Opposition Statement

Improving vehicle safety through more stringent recall requirements is an important national priority, but the National VIN Database Act does not constitute an effective approach. The bill imposes an unfunded mandate on states and duplicates existing processes. Furthermore, it requires states to provide vehicle owners' personal data (name, address and e-mail) to the federal government, in effect, losing mandated state protections over the personal information and transferring it to as yet unnamed "entities."

In short, this bill haphazardly creates a costly and redundant federal system, duplicating state reporting requirements, releasing personally identifiable information and ignoring the potential to leverage existing solutions. States would be mandated, with each of the millions of vehicle registration transactions conducted on a daily basis, to push vehicle registration data to an

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unfunded and unestablished national system. Furthermore, the bill has the potential to disrupt existing state system architecture or state business practices dependent on the integration of the process.

Congress can lead the way on improving the rate of safety recall repairs by holding manufacturers accountable for the quality of their products, not by penalizing state government agencies and vehicle owners with this unfunded federal mandate. As written, AAMVA opposes this legislation.

AAMVA welcomes the opportunity to be involved in this discussion moving forward - including the best way to leverage existing systems that are already integrated into DMV business processes and eliminating redundant reporting requirements.

Should the proposal be produced in an actual bill, AAMVA will continue to inform its membership of its progress.
