



COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRATS  
**ENERGY & COMMERCE**  
RANKING MEMBER FRANK PALLONE, JR.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 25, 2015

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**Statement by Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr., submitted for the record  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade  
Hearing on “Legislative Hearing on VIN Database and Auto Whistleblower Bills”**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Today we are discussing two bills related to automobile safety; one intended to help automakers more easily find the current owners of recalled cars and one intended to provide incentives for whistleblowers to submit safety defect information to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration or NHTSA.

While I appreciate the effort by this Committee to take action on auto safety, these measures fall short.

According to NHTSA, more than 32 thousand people lost their lives on U.S. roads in 2014. Much more needs to be done to improve the system for detecting and reporting safety defects to NHTSA, and to reduce the number of defective cars that reach consumers in the first place.

Earlier this year, Subcommittee Ranking Member Schakowsky and I, with a number of other members, introduced the Vehicle Safety Improvement Act of 2015 (V.S.I.A.). Our bill would address a number of urgent auto safety issues.

V.S.I.A. improves the Early Warning Reporting system by making more reported information public and requiring manufacturers to provide significantly more information about any fatality involving a safety defect. It includes imminent hazard authority for NHTSA, allowing the agency to expedite a recall order, and increases fines for manufacturers that violate vehicle safety laws.

In addition, it will eliminate geographically limited regional recalls and require reviews of safety standards for back seat passengers and pedestrians.

Regarding today’s two bills, I am concerned that they will have little impact on auto safety and divert scarce resources. I cannot support them as currently drafted.

I hope that we can work together to ensure that these bills will truly improve auto safety. And I also hope that together we can take broader actions that will make a larger impact on auto safety.

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