



PCI TESTIFIES

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PCI Testifies on Maryland Auto Issues

PCI testified yesterday before the Maryland Senate Finance Committee in opposition to **Senate Bill 533**, which requires the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund (MAIF) to sell, issue and deliver low-cost automobile insurance policies to individuals who meet eligibility requirements. Private automobile insurance carriers would be prohibited from participating in the program.

PCI also voiced concerns over two other MAIF bills that would allow the residual market carrier of last resort to issue auto insurance policies to out of state residents and receive an exemption from paying premium taxes: **Senate Bill 290** and **Senate Bill 910**, respectively.

PCI testified that Senate Bill 533 could increase insurance costs by prohibiting private auto insurance carriers from offering low-cost insurance products. PCI focused on supporting efforts to keep insurance affordable for consumers through a private competitive insurance marketplace. As introduced, the legislation would stifle competition and limit consumer choice in the insurance marketplace.

All three bills were assigned to a Senate work group. PCI will continue to stay engaged on these issues and will keep members informed of any developments regarding the MAIF.

PCI is composed of nearly 1,000 member companies, representing the broadest cross section of insurers of any national trade association. PCI members write \$202 billion in annual premium, 35 percent of the nation's property casualty insurance. Member companies write 42 percent of the U.S. automobile insurance market, 27 percent of the homeowners market, 33 percent of the commercial property and liability market and 34 percent of the private workers compensation market.

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