



# ERIE ACTION NETWORK

CONNECTING MATTERS

May 17, 2021

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## The Issue: AUTO INSURERS AND DRIVING AUTOMATION: INNOVATING TOGETHER

Last week your [Government Relations Team](#) participated in APCA's Federal Legislative Action Day. We and other representatives from the property casualty industry met with members of congress virtually to advocate on the policy issues that impact our businesses, our industry, and the policyholders we serve. We thought it would be helpful to know more about those issues. Here's the third in our series of issue briefs and explanations of our positions.

**BACKGROUND:** As Congress takes up infrastructure legislation with a goal of preparing our roads and highways for the future, the time is ripe for enacting measures that will enable auto insurers to develop innovative insurance products and services for the increasing levels of automation in today's vehicles, and for those that one day will be fully autonomous. The transition to "self-driving" vehicles will take place over many years during which time automated vehicles will interact and collide with other vehicles. To protect people and property, motor vehicle liability insurance must remain an indispensable part of motor vehicle risk management.

### Data Access and Innovation

- To support innovation in motor vehicle technology, insurers will need to identify vehicles equipped with advanced technology systems, using common terminology for those systems.
- Vehicle owners need to be able to grant insurers access to this information to efficiently handle claims when accidents do occur and help insurers develop products and underwriting methods to meet the needs presented by the changing nature of the driving risk and obtain regulatory approval to bring those products to market.
- Vehicle owners must have the ability to control and access vehicle-generated data on a real-time, secure basis and to be able to grant access to third parties such as insurers.

### Safety

- The increased automation of driving functions will mean that some motor vehicle laws and regulations may need to be changed. Nonetheless, all vehicles must continue to meet all federal and state safety requirements and be capable of complying with all state motor vehicle laws.
- Any exceptions to existing auto safety laws and motor vehicle safety standards should be exceedingly rare and limited to only the highest levels of automated driving and should clearly define the levels of automation to which the modification applies. Exceptions should not be made for collision protection standards.
- Automated and connected vehicle systems must be secure and hardened against cyberattacks. Yet, this should not be an obstacle to reasonable data access for vehicle owners and their authorized designees.

### Primacy of State Regulation on Insurance and Liability Issues

- The existing division of regulatory responsibility for motor vehicles should be maintained. Control over insurance regulation and liability apportionment should remain with the states.

- State legal systems should be allowed to adapt to ensure accident victims are appropriately compensated. The U.S. legal system has proven to be very adaptable to new technology.

**Our Position:** Congress should support including proposals in the infrastructure legislation that will provide access to data and information so that the insurance industry can innovate to support the increasing automation of motor vehicles and evolving nature of the driving risk.