

**Alliance for Justice
Center for Justice & Democracy
Consumer Federation of America
Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety (CARS)
ConsumerWatchdog
National Consumers League
New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)
Public Citizen**

May 26, 2010

The Honorable Bruce Braley
Member of Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Braley:

The undersigned consumer and public interest organizations write to express our strong support for your Amendment to the Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 2010, to repeal Section 30106 of title 49, United States Code, otherwise known as the Graves Amendment. This misguided law, slipped into the 900-page 2005 transportation legislation at the behest of car rental companies, preempted numerous state vicarious liability laws, effectively immunizing rental car companies for renting cars to uninsured or underinsured drivers who are negligent and who could cause accidents and endanger the public.

As a result of this ill-advised law, rental car companies are permitted to escape responsibility for serious injuries caused by their uninsured drivers. Therefore, many victims who have been injured by uninsured rental car drivers have had no recourse against a financially responsible vehicle owner and no ability to be compensated.

At the time the Graves Amendment was passed, many states had laws that required rental car companies to assume responsibility when their uninsured drivers caused accidents. This was a public policy choice. The Graves Amendment usurped that state authority, taking power away from states and preventing them from making sure rental car drivers were properly insured. By repealing the Graves Amendment, your Amendment would restore a state's ability to protect its own citizens.

If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Doroshow, Center for Justice & Democracy, 90 Broad St., Suite 401, New York, NY 10004; 212/267-2801; joanned@centerjd.org.

Sincerely,

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