



# Press Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## AASP-MN Becomes Newest SCRS Affiliate

*Prosser, Washington, January 11, 2006* — The Society of Collision Repair Specialists (SCRS) is pleased to announce its newest affiliate association, the Alliance of Automotive Service Providers, Minnesota (AASP-MN). The statewide organization, headquartered in Minneapolis, consists of nearly 700 automotive professionals, of which 35 percent are collision repairers. Its stated mission is to improve the state's automotive service industry and the success of its members.



AASP-MN has carved out a high profile as a dynamic and committed group representing the best interests of the collision repair industry, and has been a primary catalyst for two bills recently signed into Minnesota state law. The first excludes the cost of repairing air bag systems from the calculation of the salvage threshold of the consumer's vehicle. The second revises statutory language in the insurer's claims-related documentation, making it clear that the policyholder has the right to choose a repair shop.

In addition, AASP-MN is responsible for a successful series of management and technical programs put on in conjunction with selected educational partners, along with a full slate of other industry-related activities.

It was this reputation for action and results that attracted the attention of SCRS, prompting Executive Director Dan Risley to initiate contact with their Executive Director, Judell Anderson. "There has been a tremendous amount of activity in Minnesota and it was apparent to us that AASP-MN was the catalyst of change," states Risley. "Their efforts from a legislative and educational perspective are to be commended and should serve as a great example of the power of a strong state association."

Anderson first presented Risley's invitation to affiliate with SCRS to the association's collision advisory committee and then to its board of directors, which voted to move forward. "Most of our members are aware of the work that SCRS does on behalf of the collision repair industry because of the close relationship between SCRS and the national AASP organization," says Anderson, "so things developed rapidly. We appreciate the fact that, like us, they aren't afraid to take a stand about what's important to the industry and aggressively pursue solutions to issues to make it a better industry for everyone."

In addition, the group understood that joining SCRS posed no threat to their independence. "SCRS' affiliate members absolutely retain their autonomy as organizations, and that's important to us," adds Anderson. "We can access information and network on a national level, while continuing to address

local issues with our own proven effectiveness. It allows us to broaden our scope without stretching ourselves thin.”

“We look forward to working with the accomplished professionals of the AASP-MN,” says SCRS Chairman Tom Moreland. “They’re a great complement to SCRS and by interacting with them on a regular basis we expect to build synergies that lead to industry improvement and unity, again proving that ‘Working Together Is the Most Important Work We Do’.

Through its direct members and 32 affiliate associations, SCRS is comprised of 5,000 collision repair businesses and 58,500 specialized professionals who work with consumers and insurance companies to repair collision-damaged vehicles. Additional information about SCRS including other news releases is available at the SCRS web site: [www.scrs.com](http://www.scrs.com). You can e-mail SCRS at the following address: [info@scrs.com](mailto:info@scrs.com).

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