

Written Testimony

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February 5, 2024

The Honorable Luke Clippinger and Members of the Committee
House Judiciary Committee
Maryland House of Delegates

RE: HB 59 – Motor Vehicle Theft – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Committee:

The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) is a national, century-old, not-for-profit organization supported by approximately 1,200 property and casualty insurance companies, including many who write business in Maryland. Working hand-in-hand with our member companies and Maryland state and local law enforcement, we help to detect, prevent, and deter insurance crimes, including vehicle thefts and carjackings. While NICB provides value to our member companies, we also serve a significant public benefit by helping to stem the estimated billions of dollars in economic harm that insurance crime causes to individual policy holders across the country every year.

NICB's President and CEO, David Glawe, [testified before the Judiciary Committee in the United States Senate](#) in a hearing entitled "Federal Support for Preventing and Responding to Carjackings." As laid out in Mr. Glawe's testimony, both vehicle thefts and carjackings have skyrocketed in jurisdictions around the country over the past few years. Nationally, vehicle thefts increased by over 13 percent between 2020 and 2022. The number of vehicles reported stolen during the first half of 2023 reached 492,460, which surpassed the 479,473 reported thefts during the first half of 2022. In Maryland, 11,782 vehicles were reported stolen during the first half of 2023 compared to 6,975 thefts during the same period in 2022, which represents a 68% increase in vehicle thefts.

House Bill 59 recognizes the significant rise in vehicle thefts both statewide and across the nation by revising Articles 5 and 14 of the Annotated Code of Maryland to include motor vehicle theft within the definition of a crime of violence. The bill will help deter thieves and provide law enforcement officials and prosecutors with important tools to investigate and prosecute vehicle theft cases, particularly those involving prolific thieves or organized rings who continue to commit these crimes and threaten communities in Maryland.

Accordingly, we respectfully request your support for House Bill 59.

We thank you for considering our views as you deliberate the merits of this bill. We strongly encourage you to utilize NICB as a resource and partner in the fight against vehicle theft. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at edecampos@nicb.org or 847.989.7104.

Sincerely,



Eric M. De Campos
Senior Director
Strategy, Policy and Government Affairs
National Insurance Crime Bureau