

April 17, 2023

Chair Ron Latz and Members of the Committee
Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
Minnesota Senate

RE: Senate File 3236 – Carjacking

Dear Chair Latz 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 Minnesota. Working hand-in-hand with our member companies and Minnesota law enforcement, we help to detect, prevent, and deter insurance crimes, including vehicle theft. 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 policyholders across the country every year.

Law enforcement agencies and communities across the United States continue to be plagued by record and near-record levels of vehicular crime as monthly theft totals nationwide consistently exceeded 75,000 in 2022. According to new analysis conducted by the NICB, the insurance industry's association dedicated to predicting, preventing, and prosecuting insurance crime, more than 1 million vehicles were stolen last year, marking a 7% increase over 2021.

Beyond the loss to an owner and the resulting financial impacts – including in the form of higher insurance premiums for Minnesota consumers – vehicle thefts often have serious second-order effects on society. For example, vehicles are frequently stolen under violent conditions resulting in physical harm to car owners and other victims. Additionally, organized criminal rings are increasingly stealing cars as an alternative revenue stream as well as to commit other violent crimes.

Senate File 3236 would establish the crime of carjacking, where a person commits robbery to take a motor vehicle. Provides a conviction for carjacking is a felony, punishable by imprisonment. This proposal would go a long way towards helping stem the tide of increased automobile crime in Minnesota.

Accordingly, we ask for your strong support in favor of SF 3236.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at csepich@nicb.org or (847) 772-7667.

Sincerely,



Craig Sepich
Assistant Director
Office of Strategy, Policy, & Government Affairs
National Insurance Crime Bureau