

Auto Theft Prevention Act

Auto theft is unnecessarily harming communities nationwide. Too often, criminals are not held accountable, victims cannot recover their property, and their lives are completely disrupted without access to transportation. State and local law enforcement offices often lack the funding, resources, and personnel to address the ever-increasing number of auto theft crimes, resulting in a backlog of outstanding cases and allowing criminals to remain at large.

The Auto Theft Prevention Act is a bipartisan bill that would create a grant program for state and local law enforcement offices to purchase, equip, and train law enforcement to use automated license plate readers and other technologies to help combat auto theft, hold criminals accountable, deter future auto theft crimes, and help get justice for innocent victims.

Bill Summary

The Auto Theft Prevention Act will help law enforcement combat auto theft by:

- Authorizing the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services to create a federal grant program designed to help state and local law enforcement offices combat auto theft;
- Prioritizing states with higher levels of auto theft and a stated track record of and plan to combat auto theft when awarding federal grant money; and,
- Prioritizing local law enforcement offices through competitive subgrants distributed by recipients.

The Auto Theft Prevention Act has been endorsed by the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA) and the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA).