MIDWEST CENTER FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY

Dear [Senator/Representative _____]:

On behalf of the undersigned traffic safety, law enforcement, and public safety organizations, we respectfully request your support for the Vehicle Location Assistance for Law Enforcement Act of 2026. This legislation will strengthen traffic safety efforts, assist law enforcement in responding to violent crimes, and ultimately save lives.

Traffic safety is often an undervalued component of law enforcement's mission to protect the public. Yet it remains one of the foundational pillars of public safety worldwide. Traffic enforcement is more than issuing citations; it frequently leads to the detection of serious criminal activity, the recovery of stolen vehicles, the safe return of abducted persons, and the prevention of further violence. Ensuring law enforcement has timely access to available safety technology is a critical step in protecting our communities.

In 2023, following the investigation of a stolen vehicle, Michael McCarty, a member of our Board of Directors, contacted vehicle manufacturers nationwide to inquire about built-in vehicle location technology. He found that most manufacturers install tracking capabilities in newly manufactured vehicles. In many cases, the service is complimentary for a limited time and then requires a paid subscription; in others, it is available depending on vehicle trim packages. Importantly, many vehicles leave the factory already equipped with this technology. Some manufacturers can remotely disable a vehicle once it has come to a stop, reducing the likelihood of dangerous high-speed pursuits and minimizing risk to the public.

Mr. McCarty compiled this information and, upon request, distributed it to law enforcement agencies. The response has been extraordinary. Local police departments, county sheriff's offices, state police agencies, and federal agencies from across the country have sought access to this data. The sustained national demand demonstrates its practical value in solving crimes and enhancing public safety.

The importance of this technology became tragically clear when a pregnant mother was violently attacked in her driveway by four offenders who hijacked her vehicle while her child remained strapped in a car seat inside. When she attempted to intervene, she was run over and severely injured. Within minutes, Mr. McCarty contacted the vehicle manufacturer using the compiled information. He was informed that the owner's free trial subscription had expired and that payment was required to reactivate the tracking service, even after being told that a child was in imminent danger inside the stolen vehicle. The agency paid the subscription fee, and law enforcement located the child and vehicle shortly thereafter.

301 Congress Parkway ♦ Suite #1306 ♦ Crystal Lake, IL 60014
847/440-4832 ♦ info@illinoistruckcops.com
www.midwesttrafficsafety.org ♦ www.illinoistruckcops.org

As a result of this incident, Illinois enacted legislation requiring manufacturers of vehicles equipped with tracking capabilities to provide immediate access to law enforcement when investigating vehicular hijacking or kidnapping involving a clear and present danger of death or great bodily harm. The law also requires manufacturers to maintain a 24-hour, 365-day contact method for law enforcement access (625 ILCS 5/4-111).

The need for national legislation is evident. According to the FBI Uniform Crime Statistics, more than 2.8 million vehicles were reported stolen across the United States over the past five years. During that same period, more than 175,000 kidnappings and abductions were reported. Federal legislation modeled after Illinois' law would allow law enforcement agencies nationwide to use existing vehicle location technology to investigate vehicular hijackings, kidnappings, parental and spousal abductions, homicides, and cases involving missing persons with life-threatening medical conditions.

No family should endure the loss of a loved one when lifesaving tools are already built into modern vehicles but are inaccessible during critical emergencies. The Vehicle Location Assistance for Law Enforcement Act of 2026 ensures that when a clear and present danger exists, law enforcement can access existing vehicle tracking technology immediately—without delay, without subscription barriers, and without unnecessary risk to the public.

We urge you to support this commonsense, life-saving legislation and help make Illinois' successful model a nationwide standard. We stand ready to work with you to advance this important initiative.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to public safety.

Respectfully,

Marc Fisher
Executive Director

mfisher@midwesttrafficsafety.org

On behalf of the undersigned organizations: