



February 17, 2022

Colorado House of Representatives
Colorado House Judiciary Committee
Chairman, Representative Mike Weissman

Support Statement: House Bill 22-1217

Dear Chairman Weissman 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 Colorado. Working hand-in-hand with our member companies and Colorado state and local 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 policy holders across the country every year.

We write in support of House Bill 22-1217 which seeks to combat catalytic converter theft.

Catalytic converter theft has skyrocketed over the past two years in part due to the significant rise in the price of various precious metals, including rhodium, platinum, and palladium. All are used in the construction of catalytic converters. Criminals are seizing the opportunity to profit off these increased prices by removing the catalytic converter from vehicles – in relatively easy fashion – and selling the stolen part on the black market. The component precious metals can be recycled into new products. Nationally, catalytic converter thefts more than quadrupled from 3,389 in 2019 to 14,433 in 2020.

Additionally, installing a replacement catalytic converter can cost thousands of dollars. Because thieves try to remove the converters as quickly as possible, their hastiness often causes higher repair costs due to incidental damage. Moreover, businesses with large vehicle fleets, such as vehicle dealerships or utility companies, are often targeted due to the number of potential marks in a small area. Thefts from commercial carriers can lead to replacement costs in excess of tens of thousands of dollars, and additional lost revenue due to halted operations.

In addition, we strongly support the provision to create a catalytic converter identification and theft grant program to help provide funding for local law enforcement agencies to combat this program and raise public awareness.

Accordingly, we respectfully request your support for Senate Bill 38.

We thank you for scheduling a hearing and 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 catalytic converter theft. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at tlynch@nicb.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Lynch". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Tim Lynch
Senior Director
Strategy, Policy, and Government Affairs
National Insurance Crime Bureau