

October 29th of 2021, will always be deeply ingrained in my memories as the day I will never be able to forget. It was the day my life changed for the worst, it changed the way I process the world around me and most importantly... it changed the way I saw the justice system. That day I learned that as a victim, I had no recourse for justice. I would have to live in fear because according to our current laws set in place, there is no law that prohibits anyone from tracking another person. It had been a horrible past 24 hours already and now this, I had my belongings broken, I was assaulted and threatened, all I wanted to do was move in peace and be in a safe environment at last. Once I was finally able to get my belongings into the U-Haul to start moving, I made my way to the highway thinking this would be the beginning of a new chapter in my life. However, I kept getting calls from my Ex, those calls then started to come from unknown numbers... all of which were him. I just wanted him to stop, so I finally answered, and the threats just continued, he told me he would find out where I live and burn my house down amongst a host of other awful things. Little did I know he meant it, those threats on my life were plans he was actively putting in motion, he figured out which U-Haul my car was at, placed the air tag that was enclosed in a plastic baggie with a strong magnet inside the rear left end of my bumper. After that call, I was just terrified, I didn't ask anyone else for help with my move because I didn't want anyone else to potentially be seriously hurt, because of that the move took me all day, so I didn't return the U-Haul that night... which is probably what saved my life. If I had returned the U-Haul, I would have been a sitting duck waiting for God only knows what to happen to me. Luckily, I had errands to run and picked up a list minute shift as a nursing facility so once I got my car, I wasn't in one place for an extended amount of time and they were all public places, up until the end of the night when I got off. I walked to my car to go home, a few minutes after 11pm and that's when I got the alert from Apple that my location had been tracked for hours. I couldn't find it and it was dark, so I went to the police station where two female officers helped me find the Air tag, there is when I learned there are no laws that prohibit someone from tracking your location. My just nightmare continued, even after all the police reports and incidents that had occurred leading up to this... it just wasn't enough for me to get justice. I had to go to a battered women's shelter, the home that I worked so hard for was no longer tangible for the time being. It was horrible enough that I knew I wasn't safe, but to feel that way and do everything in your power within the justice system and still I have no way to get justice just broke my heart. At best I could get a restraining order. The restraining order didn't make me feel safe, the process to get one was frustrating. I just wanted to feel safe and protected, but I simply wasn't. I significantly limited visits to family because he knew their addresses, they didn't even know where I lived for months. I've always been afraid that he would find a way to get my address because he did previously hack my iCloud before to view my messages and once, I did feel comfortable to tell family and friends my address, I didn't text them my address. Even to present day, I look for unrecognized cars in my parking lot, monitor my vehicle for anything new, I've installed security cameras, I thoroughly vet new people in my life to not only ensure that they don't have ties to my ex, but because I view people very differently. I'm not as active socially as I used to be, I don't feel comfortable posting pictures in real time that would possibly reveal my location, and I even had to buy a gun. It breaks my heart that for other victims and survivors like me, there is nothing that can be done. He threatened my life and followed through with half of it, it was only by luck that the second never occurred. With this being legal, kidnappings, sex trafficking, stalking, and all other heinous crimes are all made easier. To all the criminals that know their victims have no recourse, getting an Air Tag or tracking device is this is a perfect route to commit a crime. Just imagine how many crimes could have been prevented if this law was in effect, imagine how many domestic violence victims would be alive and with their loved ones, imagine the statistics on sex trafficking being decreased, imagine the number of child kidnappings lowering all because we stop the problem at the source! If we made it illegal for perpetrators to commit such a crime, then just maybe less people would fall victim to other heinous crimes that would occur as a result of being tracked. Please, I urge you to protect us so that the next time this happens, that victim can look to the justice system and not be failed.