



April 25, 2025

Hon. Cindy Abrams and Members of the Committee
Committee on Public Safety
Ohio House of Representatives

RE: HB 210 – Sale of Catalytic Converters – Support

Dear Chair Abrams 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 Ohio. Working hand-in-hand with our member companies and Ohio state and local law enforcement, we help to detect, prevent, and deter insurance crimes, including vehicle theft and catalytic converter theft.

Catalytic converter theft has skyrocketed in recent 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 from these increased prices by removing the catalytic converter from vehicles – in relatively easy fashion – and selling the stolen part on the black market.

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 catalytic converters 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.

House Bill 210 seeks to curb catalytic converter thefts by, among other things, enhancing criminal penalties for stealing catalytic converters and for receiving stolen catalytic converters, placing important record keeping requirements on scrap metal dealers, requiring purchasers of used catalytic converters to obtain proof of ownership from the seller, and authorizes the Director of Public Safety to investigate a scrap metal dealer who received a used catalytic converters. These requirements will help deter catalytic converter thefts by discouraging illegal secondary market sales and providing law enforcement with additional records to help investigate cases.

Accordingly, we respectfully request your support for HB 210.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. As always, please consider NICB a resource and partner in the fight against insurance crime. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at hhandler@nicb.org or 312-771-3974.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Howard Handler".

Howard Handler, Senior Director
Strategy, Policy and Government Affairs