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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To provide funding to State and local law enforcement agencies to combat auto theft and stolen automobile trafficking, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. SHERRILL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide funding to State and local law enforcement agencies to combat auto theft and stolen automobile trafficking, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Auto Theft Prevention
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTO THEFT PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the

1 Office of Community Oriented Policing Services of the De-
2 partment of Justice shall establish an auto theft preven-
3 tion grant program (in this Act referred to as the “Pro-
4 gram”) to provide funding to State law enforcement agen-
5 cies and local law enforcement agencies to combat auto
6 theft and stolen vehicle trafficking.

7 (b) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The Director shall make
8 grants under the Program to the Attorney General of each
9 State, with the amount awarded determined by prioritizing
10 States with a higher rate of auto thefts as determined by
11 an equal weighting of the—

12 (1) rate of auto thefts faced by the State in the
13 year prior to the date of enactment of this Act; and

14 (2) percentage increase in auto thefts between
15 the year that is three years prior to the date of the
16 enactment of this Act and the year prior to the date
17 of the enactment of this Act.

18 (c) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—

19 (1) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—
20 The Attorney General of a State shall make at least
21 50 percent of a grant awarded under subsection (b)
22 available as competitive subgrants to local law en-
23 forcement agencies to combat auto theft, with the
24 amount awarded determined by prioritizing localities

1 with a higher rate of auto theft as determined by an
2 equal weighting of the—

3 (A) rate of auto thefts faced by the locality
4 in the year prior to the date of enactment of
5 this Act; and

6 (B) percentage increase in auto thefts be-
7 tween three years prior to the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act and the year prior to the date
9 of the enactment of this Act.

10 (2) STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—

11 The Attorney General of a State shall make at least
12 25 percent of a grant awarded under subsection (b)
13 available as competitive grants to State law enforce-
14 ment agencies to combat auto theft.

15 (3) OTHER AMOUNTS.—The Attorney General
16 of a State shall make any proportion of the grant
17 awarded under subsection (b) not allocated under
18 paragraph (1) or (2) available as competitive sub-
19 grants to local law enforcement agencies or competi-
20 tive grants to State law enforcement agencies. Any
21 subgrant made under this paragraph to a local law
22 enforcement agency shall follow the prioritization
23 pursuant to paragraph (1).

24 (d) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Amounts from a grant
25 awarded under subsection (b) may only be used for the

1 purpose of combating auto theft and combating stolen
2 automobile trafficking, including—

3 (1) purchasing equipment used to combat auto
4 theft, such as law enforcement vehicles and license
5 plate readers;

6 (2) hiring additional law enforcement officers
7 and support staff to combat auto theft;

8 (3) funding overtime costs and additional com-
9 pensation for law enforcement officers and support
10 staff involved in combating auto theft;

11 (4) providing training for law enforcement offi-
12 cers and support staff to combat auto theft;

13 (5) providing resources for joint task forces es-
14 tablished to combat auto theft; and

15 (6) funding law enforcement data collection and
16 research activities related to combating auto theft.

17 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
18 authorized to be appropriated \$30,000,000 for each of fis-
19 cal years 2023 through 2027 to carry out the Program.

20 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED USES OF COPS GRANT**
21 **PROGRAM FUNDS.**

22 Section 1701(b) of the Omnibus Crime Control and
23 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381(b)) is amend-
24 ed—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraph (23) as para-
2 graph (24);

3 (2) in paragraph (22)—

4 (A) by striking “(21)” and inserting
5 “(22)”; and

6 (B) by redesignating paragraph (22) as
7 paragraph (23); and

8 (3) by inserting after paragraph (21), the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(22) to combat auto thefts and combat stolen
11 automobile trafficking by purchasing equipment, hir-
12 ing law enforcement officers and support staff, cov-
13 ering overtime and officer compensation costs, ex-
14 panding access to training initiatives, funding joint
15 task forces, and funding law enforcement data col-
16 lection and research activities related to auto
17 thefts;”.

18 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

19 For purposes of this Act:

20 (1) **LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.**—The
21 term “local law enforcement agency” means any en-
22 tity administered by a locality that exists primarily
23 to prevent and detect crime and enforce criminal
24 laws.

1 (2) LOCALITY.—The term “locality” means any
2 city, county, township, town, borough, parish, vil-
3 lage, or other general purpose political subdivision of
4 a State.

5 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means any
6 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
7 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-
8 lands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Common-
9 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

10 (4) STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The
11 term “State law enforcement agency” means any
12 State entity that exists primarily to prevent and de-
13 tect crime and enforce criminal laws.