



## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** April 8, 2009

**To:** The Honorable Jose Solorio, Chair  
The Honorable Curt Hagman, Vice Chair  
Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee

**From:** Rex D. Frazier, President  
Michael A. Gunning, Vice President  
Kimberley Dellinger, General Counsel  
Ermelinda Ruiz, Legislative Advocate

**Re:** AB 751 (Garrick) Motor Vehicle Thefts  
Assembly Public Safety Committee – April 14, 2009  
**PIFC Position: Support**

The Personal Insurance Federation of California, representing insurers who write over 60% of the auto insurance sold in the state, including State Farm, Allstate, Farmers, Liberty Mutual Group, 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Progressive, and NAMIC, **supports AB 751 by Assembly Member Garrick.**

PIFC and its member companies have a long history of support for sound public safety measures that serve to reduce injuries and enhance public safety. Because of our interest in vehicle theft issues, we want to express our strong support for AB 751. Through our members' association with the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) we are aware of the efforts of organized criminal conspiracies dealing with vehicle theft and insurance fraud. NICB on an annual basis publishes its "Hot Spots" media campaign which ranks cities in terms of vehicle theft. On a consistent basis, California has numerous cities ranking in the top ten. As a result, the economic losses to California consumers are staggering.

AB 751 would combat the growing crime of motor vehicle theft by increasing penalties for repeat offenders. This bill would make motor vehicle theft a felony conviction when the person has a prior misdemeanor conviction. The bill would also provide enhanced prison sentences for persons who steal motor vehicles like ambulances, police cars or the vehicle of a disabled individual. By toughening penalties for would-be vehicle thieves, AB 751 sends a strong message that California does not tolerate the unlawful taking of citizens' property.

For the foregoing reasons, **PIFC supports AB 751** and urges your **"yes"** vote. If you have any questions regarding PIFC's support, please contact Michael Gunning at (916) 442-6646.

cc: Honorable Martin Garrick, Author  
Greg Pagan, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
Gary Olson, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Mike Proso, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Secretary for the Governor  
Manolo Platin, Office of the Insurance Advisor

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