



SHAREN WILSON
Criminal District Attorney
Tarrant County

May 15, 2018

Texas Automobile Theft and Prevention Authority
Bryan Wilson, Director
4000 Jackson Avenue
Austin, Texas 78731

Dear Mr. Wilson,

As the District Attorney for Tarrant County Texas, I support the continuation of the Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA) that is administratively attached to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

ABTPA fills a criminal justice gap by providing financial support to local prosecutors and agencies to reduce the incident of automobile theft. We appreciate that the program supports law enforcement through grants provided by the collection of fees assessed on motor vehicle insurance policies. The Sunset Advisory Commission recommends that the ABTPA be authorized to expand the role of the Task Forces to "combat a broader range of motor vehicle crimes such as odometer fraud, beyond just automobile burglary and theft."

Motor vehicle theft and burglary losses to individuals and businesses in Texas amounts to nearly \$1 Billion each year. ABTPA is addressing important statewide issues - the present and future state of auto crimes. As auto crimes continue to evolve, the ABTPA and local law enforcement, supported by the State must take steps to stem the methods used to commit auto crimes and address the illegal profits from fraudulent activity. In addition to personal losses most motor vehicle crime adversely affects the collection of state fees and taxes. The specialized skills needed to investigate these crimes needs to be expanded to the prosecutorial stage of the process. Having dedicated and specially trained prosecutors to represent the state in multijurisdictional motor vehicle crime is critical. I fully support the addition of prosecutors to the ABTPA team.

Currently, ABTPA collects over \$46 million per year but only appropriates \$12.8 million. Expanding the role of ABTPA to other motor vehicle crimes and adding appropriate resources would be an innovative way to protect the public from motor vehicle crimes and increase state revenues.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharen Wilson", is written over a horizontal line.

Sharen Wilson
Criminal District Attorney