

## Addressing the Auto Theft Crisis

**Background:** The surge in car thefts across our nation has reached alarming proportions, impacting communities and individuals alike. In particular, Ontario and Quebec witnessed a **50% increase** in car thefts during 2022. While our federal and provincial governments have taken steps to address this issue, their focus has predominantly been on manufacturers rather than addressing the **underlying cause:** organized crime networks.

### Challenges:

1. **Misdirected Efforts:** The current approach, emphasizing manufacturers, fails to tackle the root of the problem.
2. **Legislative Amendments:** In 2022, the federal government introduced amendments allowing house arrest for sentences less than 2 years. Unfortunately, this “catch and release” policy has contributed to the escalating crime rates.
3. **Leadership Dilemma:** There exists a paradox where criminals roam freely while car owners are left to fend for themselves. This represents a leadership failure.

### Proposed Solutions:

1. **Holistic Approach:**
  - Shift the focus from manufacturers to **organized crime syndicates**. Collaborate with law enforcement agencies to dismantle these networks.
  - Implement targeted measures to disrupt their funding sources derived from stolen vehicles.
2. **Legislative Reforms:**
  - Reevaluate the recent amendments to the criminal code. Consider alternative sentencing options that deter repeat offenders.
  - Explore community-based rehabilitation programs to address the root causes of criminal behavior.
3. **Technological Advancements:**
  - While innovation in vehicle safety features is crucial, we must also invest in **port security**.
  - Deploy additional staff to monitor and safeguard our ports against illicit activities.
4. **Mandatory Sentences:**
  - Strengthen penalties for repeat offenders to deter future crimes.
  - Ensure consistency in sentencing across jurisdictions.

Our goal is to create an environment where car owners can rest easy, knowing their vehicles are secure. By addressing the root causes, enhancing legislation, and fostering community engagement, we can reclaim our neighborhoods from the grasp of auto thieves and restore peace of mind for all citizens.