



## DeFlock America: Ban All Automatic License-plate Readers

State legislators must take a stand against the surveillance state by banning Flock cameras and all other automatic license-plate readers (ALPRs), regardless of the specific company that provides them.

Although an increasing number of cities are [canceling](#) contracts with Flock Safety, thousands continue to use Flock cameras. Additionally, Flock is [not the only](#) company that [provides](#) ALPRs, and some cities have merely [replaced](#) Flock with those alternatives, which include Axon.

ALPRs directly undermine the [Fourth Amendment's](#) protection of "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures." Additionally, [fusion centers](#) are [monitoring](#) anti-Flock discussions on social media.

*The New American* has [reported](#) about Flock ALPRs:

Flock has received sizable pushback for operating under bad licenses, misreading plates, and getting vehicle "fingerprints" wrong, leading to innocent citizens being stopped and harassed. The tech is even being weaponized by law enforcement to stalk people.

The use of ALPRs is also expanding the *federal* surveillance state. As the Tenth Amendment Center [reported](#):

As reported in [The Wall Street Journal](#), the [federal Drug Enforcement Agency] operates the National License Plate Reader Program (NLPRP). The system tracks the location of millions of vehicles through data provided by ALPRs operated on a state and local level. They've engaged in this for over a decade, all without a warrant. There wasn't even public notice of the policy until 2019.

As confirmed by the NLPRP itself, state and local law enforcement agencies partner with the DEA.

# The John Birch Society

Author: [Peter Rykowski](#)

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State and local authorities operate most of these tracking systems, often paid for by federal grant money. The DEA then taps into the local database to track the whereabouts of millions of people — for the “crime” of driving — without having to operate a huge network itself.

Since a majority of federal license plate tracking data comes from state and local law enforcement, laws banning or even restricting ALPR use are essential. As more states pass such laws, the result becomes more clear. No data equals no federal license plate tracking program.

The growing use of ALPRs is an example of an emerging “[algorithmic state](#)” directed by the federal government. They blatantly threaten individual liberty and privacy, and any limited “benefits” are clearly outweighed by their dangers.

As Benjamin Franklin famously [declared](#), “They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety.”

State legislators must protect “essential liberty” and resist the urge to “obtain a little temporary safety.”

**Contact your state legislators, and urge them to outlaw all ALPRs.**