



April 11, 2025

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Support the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act of 2025 (S. 1404)**

Dear Majority Leader Thune and Democratic Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the National Retail Federation, I am writing to express our support for S. 1404, the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act of 2025, which was recently introduced by Senators Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Catherine Cortez Masto, D-Nev. This legislation would enhance coordination and provide key resources to law enforcement agencies to better combat widespread organized retail and supply chain crime, which costs retailers billions in stolen merchandise and threatens the safety of retail workers and customers. **Please note that NRF will consider co-sponsorship of, and votes for, S. 1404 as part of the Retail Opportunity Index for our voting scorecard.**

NRF, the world's largest retail trade association, passionately advocates for the people, brands, policies and ideas that help retail succeed. NRF empowers the industry that powers the economy. Retail is the nation's largest private-sector employer, contributing \$5.3 trillion to annual GDP and supporting one in four U.S. jobs — 55 million working Americans. For over a century, NRF has been a voice for every retailer and every retail job, educating, inspiring and communicating the powerful impact retail has on local communities and global economies.

Organized retail criminal (ORC) activity continues to increase in frequency, complexity and scope across the country. NRF defines ORC as large-scale theft of retail merchandise with the intent to sell for financial gain. ORC is occurring across the retail enterprise — supply chains, bricks-and-mortar stores, warehouses and online — with stolen product sold for a profit, often to fund other crimes. ORC is also prevalent in sophisticated retail financial crimes involving gift cards, return schemes and other frauds. While the financial impact of ORC on retailer margins is obvious, equally concerning to retailers is the surge in violence associated with these crimes. NRF's most recent report, "[The Impact of Retail Theft & Violence 2024](#)," found that 73% of retailers have experienced heightened aggression and violence from shoplifters over the past year, with 84% expressing growing concerns about the violence occurring during theft incidents. These acts are often at the direction or orchestration of organized theft groups. Retailers' top priority is ensuring the safety of associates, customers and the surrounding communities, and rising ORC activity directly threatens that mission.

Retail loss prevention teams and state and local law enforcement have active efforts to

investigate ORC groups and build cases but are frequently hampered by a lack of visibility into the scope of organized theft groups' broader activities, nationally and internationally. Cross-jurisdiction limitations are also hampering local and state investigative capabilities. The Combating Organized Retail Crime Act of 2025 would help remedy this issue by creating an Organized Retail and Supply Chain Crime Coordination Center within Homeland Security Investigations. The Center would align counter-ORC activities by developing national-level ORC intelligence, facilitating information sharing and cross-agency investigations and serving as a hub of expertise for training and technical assistance. The bill would also make changes to the U.S. criminal code to provide investigators and prosecutors increased enforcement tools for ORC-related activities.

American retailers and communities are facing severe economic and safety threats due to rising organized retail crime. The Combating Organized Retail Crime Act of 2025 would help address these issues by creating greater coordination and providing increased resources for law enforcement at all levels. We urge you to co-sponsor S.1404 to support efforts to combat organized retail crime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David French", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David French  
Executive Vice President  
Government Relations

CC: Members of the U.S Senate