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Testimony before the House Judiciary Committee

House Bill 2615

Shawn Crousore

Fred Meyer District Loss Prevention Manager

March 1, 2017

- At Fred Meyer, we are concerned by the recommended changes brought forth in House Bill 2615.
- Although the assumptions in the bill are mostly correct in that the value in return fraud cases is often less than \$100, they show a great deal of planning and forethought to the crime. In most cases, we see suspects either pre-purchase the item and then shoplift another to return for cash back or find a sales receipt on the ground and matching the product to the receipt.
- This type of return crime then gives the suspect 100% of the retail value of the product. At that point we are losing cash, compared to a shoplift when we are losing the cost value of the product.
- In the retail industry, our losses due to theft are at currently at record highs, and this type of criminal behavior that allows people to live off the retailers by defrauding them is what is driving those losses.
- In the eyes of Fred Meyer, this is a more serious crime than shoplifting because of the pre-planning and should be treated that way by the courts.