

ORT Senate Bills 318 and 340 Testimony.

Chair Prozanski, Members of the Committee, my name is Phillip Smith, and I am the Vice President of ORCAOR as well as a seasoned Organized Retail Crime Investigator for Fred Meyer. I support Senate Bills 318 and 340.

It is a well-known fact that Organized Retail Crime not only directly impacts the retailers themselves, but also its employees, customers, and community. Therefore, it is imperative that measures be taken to combat these crimes.

Firstly, Bill 318 will go a long way in this regard by providing support to fund cross-jurisdiction investigations, thereby providing more resources for effective investigations. This bill will also pave the way for increased partnerships between Law Enforcement and Retailers to combat Organized Retail Crime.

Additionally, Bill 340 will help improve ORC statutes for repeat offenders, property crime offenders, and all those who commit repeated theft against the same victim over a 180-day period. This bill will effectively remove any barriers for effective prosecution.

In conclusion, I strongly urge all members of this committee to support Bills 318 and 340 as these bills will contribute towards the betterment of our communities, safeguard our employees and customers, and help combat Organized Retail Crime effectively. If we do not act on these issues, business will continue to have high shrink, higher prices, and loss of hours for our employees.