



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATE: March 8, 2023

TO: Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher,
and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: Kimberly McCullough, Legislative Director
Oregon Department of Justice

SUBJECT: SB 318 and SB 340 – Organized Retail Crime

This testimony is presented in support of SB 318 and SB 340, which reflects the recommendations of the Oregon Organized Retail Crime Task Force.

Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and the Oregon Department of Justice are deeply concerned about the safety of the public and retail employees as organized retail crime has increased in recent years in Oregon and our neighboring states. We are also concerned about the consumers who unwittingly buy stolen goods on the secondary market not realizing that, at least with some products, they may be putting their health at risk. And we worry about the impact to businesses and the economy. It is exactly this type of crime that makes us all feel less secure and degrades the livability of our communities.

That is why we were grateful to join the Oregon Organized Retail Crime Task Force six months ago to combine our resources in a coordinated effort to address the scourge of organized retail crime. It is the Oregon way, after all, to work collaboratively with our public and private partners to come up with practical solutions for complex problems. The statewide task force is providing greater coordination among law enforcement, prosecutors, and businesses to identify, disrupt, and hold those engaged in organized retail crime accountable.

It is also why we are here today to support the recommendations of the task force as reflected in SB 318 and SB 340. These bills include important policy improvements and increased funding to address organized retail crime. The policy solutions will ensure that retailers and law enforcement have the necessary tools to detect, deter and hold accountable those who commit organized retail theft and improve employee safety. The funding solutions will improve our work to connect stakeholders across the state and support shared resources for cross-jurisdictional investigations, best practices, and coordination