



## **STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SB 318 and SB 340**

**To: Senate Committee on Judiciary**  
**From: United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555**  
**3/8/23**

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee:

For the record, my name is Madison Walters, and I am the political liaison and a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on SB 318 and SB 340, which make funding and policy recommendations to address organized retail crime in Oregon.

UFCW Local 555 is the largest private sector labor union in Oregon. Our members come from a number of industries, including grocery, retail, food processing, manufacturing, and healthcare. We are a diverse group of workers who take pride in acting as a strong collective voice for working people.

We are also a member of the Organized Retail Crime Task Force, which is made up of industry and labor stakeholders who are negatively impacted by organized retail crime.

Our members in retail and grocery stores are often the first endangered by organized crime in the workplace. Retail employees report being threatened and even physically assaulted while on the job. Additionally, organized retail crime has forced some retail stores to reduce hours and close certain locations, putting employees' job security at risk.

SB 340 and SB 318 make critical policy changes to amend and strengthen current statutes to allow law enforcement and prosecutors greater flexibility to detect, deter, and hold accountable those who commit organized retail theft.

I'd like to highlight a specific piece of SB 340, which amends the theft statute (ORS 164.055) to make it a felony if during the course of a theft in the second degree the individual recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of serious physical injury. As organized retail theft groups engage in more aggressive actions towards employees, this change will aim for appropriate accountability for such actions.

Let's ensure that we are doing all we can to create a safe environment to work and shop. Thank you for your consideration, and I strongly urge your support for SB 318 and SB 340.

Madison Walters  
Political Liaison  
UFCW Local 555

**UNITED FOOD & COMMERCIAL WORKERS LOCAL 555**

7095 SW Sandburg Street • PO Box 23555 Tigard, Oregon 97281-3555 • Office: 503-684-2822 • Fax: 503-620-3816 • [ufcw555.org](http://ufcw555.org)

