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## Vote NO to Decriminalize

### Theft, Trespass & Criminal Mischief – HB 2640

**HB 2640 proposes to decriminalize several crimes** that are critical to the safety and stability of Oregon’s **small and large businesses**. Specifically, Section 7 (Theft 3), Section 8 (Trespass), and Section 9 (Criminal Mischief).

In recent years, Oregon has made significant strides in revitalizing downtown areas, providing law enforcement with new tools to combat organized retail theft, and investing in targeted cleanup efforts.

**Decriminalizing these crimes will increase theft and damage to business property.** Without the deterrent of legal consequences, businesses will experience more incidents of vandalism, property damage, or disruptions caused by trespassers on or near their premises. For small businesses, the cost of repairs or cleaning up can be particularly damaging. This will further hurt Oregon’s metropolitan areas at a time when we are working hard to reverse the downward trend.

**Decriminalizing theft, trespass and criminal mischief also increases risk to employees.** If theft and trespassing are decriminalized, employees are more likely to face increased risks of confrontation or even violence.

**Decriminalizing theft for “basic need items” includes many of the most commonly stolen items from Oregon’s grocery retail stores.** This will only strengthen organized theft operations, as perpetrators deliberately target items while ensuring each incident remains below the \$100 threshold. See Section 7(3):

“basic need item’ means food, water, clothing, health care or medical supplies, shelter including but not limited to tarps and tents, reproductive care items including but not limited to condoms and menstrual products, childcare items including but not limited to diapers and formula or sanitation items including but not limited to soap, disinfectant and toilet tissues.”

*\*Note: Concerns are similar to the violation treatment proposed in HB 2469, Section 6 – 8.*