



## OREGON DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Leslie Wu, Policy Advisor to Attorney General Rayfield, Oregon Department of Justice

DATE: March 26, 2025

SUBJECT: Testimony in support of Section 4 of -1 Amendment to SB 275

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The Oregon Department of Justice writes in support of Section 4 in the -1 Amendment to SB 275. This change will allow the Criminal Justice Commission flexibility to award grant funding to the Department for its work related to the Organized Retail Theft (“ORT”) taskforce.

The Oregon Department of Justice is committed to tackling organized retail crime. Our Criminal Justice Division has two Special Agents, and one Criminal Intelligence Analyst assigned to investigate organized retail crime in Oregon. Since May of 2024, our agents have assisted law enforcement agencies 53 times across 14 Oregon Counties, including in multi-agency retail theft missions during the holiday season in Clackamas, Woodburn, Springfield, and Medford. In the last year, our agents have assisted with the arrests of over 70 people and the recovery of over \$640,000 in property. In addition to these efforts, AG Rayfield is seeking a state investment into our Criminal Justice Division to ramp up efforts to combat organized crime across the state, creating additional opportunities for partnership with the ORT work.

As of now, the ORT competitive grant process is not open to the Department, and statutory language does not clearly specify whether grant funds can be used toward equipment purchases. Section 4 of the -1 amendment to SB 275 clarifies that the CJC can award grants to the Department, and that funding can be used to further the Departments existing work with the ORT task force. That work often involves providing training and equipment to other law enforcement partners. The Department would also be able to use the funding for purchase of tangible equipment like Cellbrite stations, trackers, pole cameras, digital cameras, and evidence processing equipment, which would be used collaboratively in our multi-agency efforts to combat organized retail theft.

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