



July 14, 2021

To: Honorable Members, California State Assembly

Fr: Steve McCarthy, California Retailers Association

Re: Assembly Bill 331 (Jones-Sawyer): Assembly Concurrence – SUPPORT

On behalf of the above-listed organizations we ask once again for your SUPPORT of Assembly Bill 331 (Jones-Sawyer) to combat organized retail crime (ORC), when the bill returns from the Senate with technical amendments. AB 331 passed in May on a vote of 78-0.

This measure extends the authorization for the CHP's Organized Retail Crime Task Force (ORCTF), as well as the criminal statute for organized retail theft, until 2026.

As recent news events have highlighted, ORC has a much broader impact that just financial. ORC also impacts our communities – creating a sense of fear among customers and employees, and in certain cases forcing store closures and reduced hours that limit public access to retail, groceries, and pharmacy. Illicit ORC gains have also been used to finance other illegal activity including drug smuggling and human trafficking. These criminal networks have been known to exploit homeless, youth, and other vulnerable populations to commit thefts on their behalf.

In its nearly two years of existence, the CHP's ORCTF has made substantial inroads in combating ORC. The ORCTF has initiated or supported hundreds of ORC investigations statewide that have disrupted numerous ORC rings involved in the theft of many tens of millions of dollars in stolen goods.

On behalf of our stores and small businesses, we ask for your AYE vote on AB 331!

If you have any questions, contact Steve McCarthy at (916) 443-1975 or steve@calretailers.com.