



March 4, 2024

Honorable Aisha Wahab  
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety  
1020 N Street, Room 545  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for SB 982 (Wahab) – Crimes: organized theft**

Chair Wahab:

On behalf of the California Retailers Association, we are pleased to support Senate Bill 982, the indefinite extension of P.C. §490.4.

SB 982 would extend remove the sunset on organized retail theft criminal statute (P.C. §490.4). This measure permanently extends this effective criminal statute, lining it up with the ongoing funding for the California Highway Patrol's Organized Retail Theft Task Force (CHP ORCTF). Given the task force's effectiveness at combating organized retail theft by utilizing this code section.

The California Retailers Association is the only statewide trade association representing all segments of the retail industry including general merchandise, department stores, mass merchandisers, on-line marketplaces, restaurants, convenience stores, supermarkets and grocery stores, retail pharmacies, and specialty retail such as auto, vision, jewelry, hardware, and home stores.

Organized retail theft has plagued the retail industry in recent years. It has forced retailers to spend millions annually on security measures, such as guards, cameras, and store redesigns. Retail employees and customers are increasingly feeling unsafe, and the simple act of shopping has become burdensome for many. To combat this reality, we need to ensure our law enforcement partners have the tools they need to prosecute offenders. SB 982, paired with a package of other measures introduced in the state legislature, will keep our employees, our customers and the neighborhoods retailers operate in safe from this criminal activity.

We ask the Senate Committee on Public Safety pass SB 982.

Sincerely,

Ryan Allain  
Director, Government Affairs  
California Retailers Association