



June 4, 2024

Honorable Nancy Skinner
1021 O Street, Suite 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1144 (Skinner) – As amended 4/4/24 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Skinner:

On behalf of the California Retailers Association (CRA), I am pleased to support Senate Bill (SB) 1144 which will strengthen the tools available to both consumers and law enforcement to identify and combat the distribution of stolen goods.

Organized retail crime is a complex, multi-faceted problem and combatting it requires a comprehensive approach. The threat of organized retail crime extends beyond the storefronts—it undermines the trust and safety of the online marketplace. Building on the foundation of SB 301 (Skinner), SB 1144 enhances accountability and transparency within online marketplaces. This legislation brings critical updates to the criteria for high-volume third-party sellers and improves the measures required for online marketplaces to prevent the trafficking of stolen goods.

SB 1144 proposes a significant move toward closing the gaps that organized retail crime networks have exploited. We believe the bill will lead to more rigorous verification, clear consumer disclosure and new procedures for notifying law enforcement about the sale of stolen goods.

We appreciate the thoughtfulness that Senator Skinner has put into crafting this bill. It is a balanced approach that respects the role of online marketplaces while protecting consumers and retailers from the harmful effects of organized retail crime.

For these reasons, CRA urges an aye vote on SB 1144.

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.

Sincerely,

Rachel Michelin
President + CEO

Cc: Assemblymember Ash Kalra, Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Chair, Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee
Members, Assembly Judiciary Committee
Members, Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee
Christine Aurre, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Governor's Office
Jith Meganathan, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office