



April 4, 2024

The Honorable Kevin McCarty  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Public Safety  
1020 N Street, Room 111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

**RE: Organized Retail Theft Legislation**

Dear Assemblymember McCarty and Senator Wahab,

One of the League of California Cities' (Cal Cities) top advocacy priorities is to address crime, retail theft, organized retail theft and shoplifting. Our organization is pleased that both houses of the Legislature have prioritized retail theft and shoplifting issues as a priority in 2024. As such, Cal Cities would like to identify a few bills that we believe would help to address the critical issue of organized retail theft.

As you may know, retail theft continues to be a problem in nearly all California communities. For example, commercial burglary is at the highest rate since 2008. In fact, according to the PPIC, commercial burglary increased statewide since 2020, especially in larger counties with an increase of 13% among 14 of the 15 largest counties. Rising theft is impacting every corner of California, and city officials need additional tools to reduce crime and improve the safety of their neighborhoods.

Specifically, regarding organized retail theft, there are a handful of bills that seek changes to existing law to help address the increase in smash and grab robberies and other organized efforts that continue to happen at an alarming rate in our communities statewide.

Therefore, we support the following bills:

[AB 1802 \(Jones-Sawyer\) Crimes: Organized Theft](#)  
[\(As Amended on 4/1/2024\)](#)

[AB 1972 \(Alanis\) Organized Retail Theft: cargo](#)  
[\(As Introduced on 1/30/2024\)](#)

[AB 2406 \(Davies\) Crimes: Theft](#)  
[\(As Amended on 4/1/2024\)](#)



AB 2790 (Pacheco) Crimes: Organized Retail Theft  
(As Amended on 3/21/2024)

SB 928 (Niello) Crimes: Organized Retail Theft  
(As Introduced on 1/12/2024)

SB 982 (Wahab) Crimes: Organized Theft  
(As Amended on 3/5/2024)

These bills confront the issue of organized retail theft by expanding the definition of the offense to capture organized theft of merchandise stolen from a merchant's cargo, eliminating the sunset date for organized retail theft, addressing minors participating in these crimes, and addressing the theft of critical items such as baby formula.

While these individual bills are important to continue to make progress on retail theft, these bills are only one part of a comprehensive solution that needs to include prevention, enforcement, and supervision. Cal Cities is part of a larger coalition of business, labor, law enforcement and local governments trying to address the increase in theft that is impacting so many Californians. Addressing organized retail theft is one of the issues that can help solve this growing problem, however additional changes are needed in to make our communities safer.

For these reasons, Cal Cities **supports the bills listed above.** If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at [jvoorhis@calcities.org](mailto:jvoorhis@calcities.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jolena Voorhis", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jolena Voorhis  
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist

cc: The Honorable Reginald B. Jones-Sawyer  
The Honorable Juan Alanis  
The Honorable Laurie Davies  
The Honorable Blanca Pacheco  
The Honorable Roger Niello  
The Honorable Aisha Wahab  
Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
Members, Senate Public Safety Committee  
Sandy Uribe, Chief Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
Gary Olson, Consultant, Republican Caucus



Mary Kennedy, Chief Counsel, Senate Public Safety  
Eric Csizmar, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus