



August 12, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 982 (Wahab) Crimes: Organized Theft.
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE *(As Amended on July 1, 2024)*

Dear Governor Newsom,

The League of California Cities (Cal Cities) is pleased to **support** SB 982 (Wahab), which would repeal the sunset date of January 1, 2026, for the organized retail theft statute.

As you may know, organized retail theft has become a serious threat to small and large businesses in our communities. 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.

SB 982 helps to address the issue of organized retail theft by repealing the upcoming sunset date and ensuring that the statute will remain as a tool for law enforcement to address these organized and brazen thefts.

SB 982 is part of a package of bills that will make important changes to retail theft. Protecting retail establishments from theft is one of the priorities Cal Cities has identified that need to be addressed before real progress can be made, however all of the proposed changes in the retail theft legislative package are needed in order to comprehensively address this issue.

For these reasons, Cal Cities **urges your signature** on SB 982. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at jvoorhis@calcities.org.

Sincerely,

Jolena Voorhis
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist

cc: The Honorable Aisha Wahab
Jith Meganathan, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office