

Submitter: Chad Kernutt
On Behalf Of: Law Abiding Citizens
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB318

Dear Lawmakers,

My name is Chad Kernutt and I urge you to vote YES on SB-318. Crime and retail theft in particular is a massive problem striking every community in Oregon right now. Since 2020 criminals and particularly thieves have gotten really brazen about their activities and steal at will in broad day light and without even trying to look innocent and inconspicuous. The majority of times they will not be pursued and the employees of the stores shrug their shoulders and say oh well another one struck today. I witness it happening multiple times a day when I'm out at the grocery store or shopping with my family and I've for the most part given up calling it in and telling loss prevention because the big box chain stores say they aren't willing to prosecute unless it's a massive dollar amount of product due to laws passed by the legislature and law enforcement has so much going on that they won't make it a priority because the businesses a lot of times won't press charges. We need to fix the laws and raise the penalties and charges for stealing and lower the qualifying dollar amounts for theft charges making them bigger misdemeanors and lowering the bar for felony theft. Crime and the criminal element has no business being associate with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion agenda. The laws on the books aren't racist and need to be applied to and enforced on everyone equally. We need equal justice under the law but most importantly we need justice in our communities!! I don't care if someone is white, black, brown, red, yellow, the colors of the rainbow, it doesn't matter!! If you're a criminal than your bloody criminal and you need to be held accountable and charged accordingly for your criminal behavior. These thieves brazenly stealing items from stores all the day long are killing small businesses, driving out big businesses, and for the big businesses that stay open they keep jacking up the prices on all of us law abiding consumers to make up for the losses due to theft. Ask Walmart, Fred Meyers, and Target as they have all announced these moves in press releases. Any given day that I go out to run errands and grab things at the stores with my family I witness people bypassing the check out with carts full of stuff and walking right out the front doors. I witness people walking around with back packs in the stores everywhere putting items straight into their back packs and then walking out the front door with them. This is absolutely getting out of hand and something must be done!! Stop making Oregon an appealing place for crime and criminals and making it unlivable, intolerable, and miserable (not to mention more expensive) for us law abiding folks. Please vote YES on SB-318 and then fix the laws on the books so they make sense again and support and encourage the businesses pressing charges on criminals and the law enforcement who will see that these bad boys and girls are pursued and charged accordingly being held to account for what they do to us all. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Chad Kernutt