



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Leslie Wu, Policy Advisor to Attorney General Rayfield, Oregon Department of Justice

DATE: March 4, 2025

SUBJECT: Testimony in support of SB 960

The Oregon Department of Justice writes in support of SB 960, which funds the continuation of the Organized Retail Theft Grant program for the 2025-27 biennium. Organized retail crime has contributed to financial losses totaling more than \$121 billion in the United States. 76% of retail workers suffer violence at the hands of organized retail criminals. The Oregon Department of Justice is committed to tackling organized retail crime. Our Criminal Justice Division has two Special Agents, and one Criminal Intelligence Analyst assigned to investigate Organized Retail Crime in the State of Oregon. Since May of 2024, our agents have assisted law enforcement agencies 53 times across 14 Oregon Counties, including in multi-agency retail theft missions during the holiday season in Clackamas, Woodburn, Springfield, and Medford. In the last year, our agents have assisted with the arrests of over 70 people and the recovery of over \$640,000 in recovered property. In addition to these efforts, AG Rayfield is seeking a significant state investment into our Criminal Justice Division to ramp up efforts to combat organized crime across the state, creating additional opportunities for partnership with the Organized Retail Theft work.

Last week, AG Rayfield joined a 38-state and territory bipartisan coalition of attorneys general who wrote [a letter](#) to the 119th Congress and urged them to devote resources at the federal level to combat the criminal organizations behind retail theft. In it, AG Rayfield and the coalition emphasized that when stores experience losses that force them to close, communities lose access to groceries, medication, and the staples of everyday life. We urge passage of SB 960 to reaffirm our own legislature's continued commitment to combatting organized retail theft.

Leslie Wu

Leslie.wu@doj.oregon.gov