



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA Senate Judiciary Committee  
FROM: Neal Leshner, Director, Government Affairs  
DATE: October 3, 2023  
RE: **Support S.B. 596 Office of Organized Retail Crime Theft**

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I write on behalf of the PA Chamber to express support for S.B. 596, which would establish an office of Organized Retail Crime Theft within the Attorney General's office and lower the monetary thresholds for second- and third-degree felony retail thefts.

Businesses large and small are facing rising occurrences of retail theft and organized retail crime. According to the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#), retail crime costs businesses in Pennsylvania over \$7.7 billion in lost product costs, higher insurance, increased price of goods, and unrealized wages and accounts for over \$1.2 billion in lost tax revenue to the state and local governments. This legislation will combat this growing crisis by providing for necessary enforcement within the Attorney General's office and lowering the thresholds to trigger felony charges. We urge a yes vote.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter. Please contact Neal Leshner at [nlesher@pachamber.org](mailto:nlesher@pachamber.org) or 717-507-9240 with questions or to discuss.