



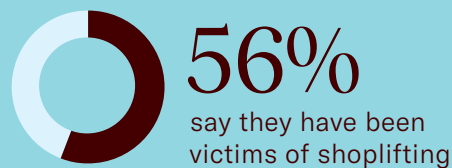
Retail Crime Hurts Small Businesses

Organized criminal activity

Organized retail theft rates have spiked significantly in the past year. This theft is perpetrated by organized criminal rings that steal large amounts of goods with the intent to resell them, particularly online.

Small businesses and consumers bear the burden

According to a recent nationwide U.S. Chamber survey of retail small businesses (MetLife and U.S. Chamber of Commerce Small Business Index), over the past year:



Action Items

Congress

Pass Legislation

Congress should pass legislation (INFORM Act) to provide more transparency in online marketplaces by requiring sellers of large quantities of goods to provide basic, “know your seller” information.

States

Redefine “Retail Crime”

Update the definition of organized retail crime and increase criminal penalties. States can also address this by passing laws allowing for the aggregation of multiple offenses over a period of time.

Localities

Ensure Crimes Are Prosecuted

Prosecutors must do their job and hold these thieves accountable. Local jurisdictions need to end blanket “do not prosecute” and other similar policies that allows thieves to avoid accountability.



To discuss Organized Retail Crime further, please contact Tom Wickham at twickham@uschamber.com

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