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February 24, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson and
Minority Leader Jeffries:

As Attorneys General of Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois and South Carolina we are joined by the 34 Attorneys General of the undersigned states to encourage action during the 119th Congress to support our efforts to combat the nationwide organized retail crime epidemic. The 118th Congress saw increased attention to this pressing issue, and we applauded the efforts in both the House and Senate to address it through the introduction of H.R.895/S.140 – Combating Organized Retail Crime Act of 2023 and S. 139 – Organized Retail Crime Center Authorization Act of 2023. This legislation would provide the necessary resources at the state and federal level to bring the organizations and individuals behind this nationwide problem to justice.

Organized retail crime has reached a level never before seen in this country and, unfortunately, no community is immune from the economic impact and the violence that comes with it. Across the country, retailers, such as: Walgreens, Walmart and Target, have been forced to close stores due to a combination of sustained financial losses and their employees being physically assaulted by organized retail crime rings. With financial losses totaling over \$121 billion and 76% of retail asset protection managers reporting their employees have suffered from violence at the hands of an organized retail criminals, Americans are paying the price. Many communities – including underrepresented communities – are devastated by store

closures leading to a lack of access to groceries, medication and the staples of everyday life.

Many of our offices have formed task forces and created prosecution units to combat this growing problem but our resources are finite. Improved coordination with federal law enforcement, as envisioned by creation of an Organized Retail Crime Coordination Center at the Department of Homeland Security through the legislation proposed in the 118th Congress, would expand upon and synchronize our efforts with federal law enforcement to combat organized retail crime. This new entity would act as a force multiplier for our offices and facilitate the information sharing necessary to combat the complex cross-border nature of organized retail crime.

Beyond what we see at the local level, a significant component of organized retail crime is cargo theft, which disrupts supply chains and acts as an inflationary pressure on the price of everything from baby formula to clothing. The theft of essential supply chain infrastructure—such as pallets, crates and containers—further exacerbates these issues by hindering the movement of goods and contributing to delays and increased costs. We hope that when this important legislation is re-introduced in the 119th Congress it will be strengthened by including provisions to increase federal penalties for supply chain thefts to act as a strong deterrent against the organized theft of goods in transit, which disrupts supply chains and affects every consumer.

Our prosecutors, and law enforcement officials work tirelessly to serve their communities in the face of growing, and increasingly sophisticated organized crime syndicates. But unfortunately, our resources are stretched thin. As Congress reconsiders this legislation, and continues consideration of the annual appropriations process, we also urge Congress to dedicate additional grant funding for state Attorneys General and local law enforcement to support investigations, prosecutions, and task force operations combating organized retail crime.

It is our hope that Congress will maintain its focus on these issues affecting our communities and provide resources needed to combat the epidemic of organized retail crime at the federal and local level. We look forward to working collaboratively with your offices on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William Tong".

William Tong
Connecticut Attorney General

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christopher M. Carr".

Christopher M. Carr
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Kwame Raoul
Illinois Attorney General

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South Carolina Attorney General

Steve Marshall
Alabama Attorney General

Treg R. Taylor
Alaska Attorney General

Kris Mayes
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Iowa Attorney General



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Kentucky Attorney General



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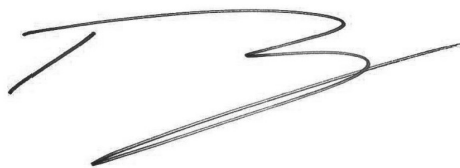
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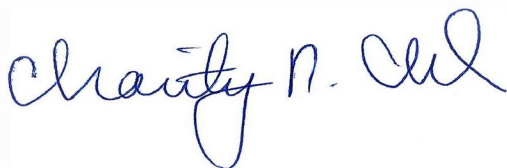
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