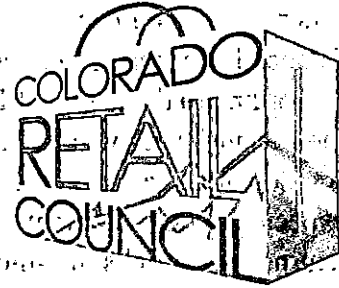


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Colorado Retail Council
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Please Vote YES on SB 14 by Coram/Carver
Fighting Back Against Organized Retail Crime in Colorado

What is Organized Retail Crime?

Organized Retail Crime is NOT simply shoplifting. "ORC" is perpetrated by sophisticated groups of criminals who move from store to store and city to city stealing high-dollar items with the intent of re-selling those goods to a fence for cash.

Nationwide, Organized Retail Crime costs America's retail industry approximately \$30 billion each year. This equates to nearly \$15 million in foregone Colorado annual sales tax revenue. According the National Retail Federation, it is continuing to grow unabated, with 83% of retailers surveyed reporting an increase in the past year. Combating this growing problem requires a concerted effort from retailers, law enforcement, and the state legislature.



See Organized Retail Crime Video [here](#).

ORC groups often use storefronts, pawn shops, flea markets and kiosks to fence stolen goods. But criminals have increasingly turned to the internet for the anonymity it offers and 58% of retailers polled said they had identified their own stolen merchandise on an online operation. Criminals are also finding ways to manipulate store return policies with 68% percent of retailers polled saying they had experienced thieves returning stolen merchandise for store credit. Organized Retail Crime teams are experts in deceptive fraud

schemes, economic crimes through the use of compromised payment cards, counterfeit financial instruments, etc. Return fraud poses a serious threat to the retail industry. According to the National Retail Federation, retailers estimated that an average 11% of their annual sales will be returned this year, and that 8% of those returns are likely to be fraudulent. An estimated 12% of returns will not include a receipt, and 21% of those are expected to be fraudulent. In addition, 38% reported in an increase in online purchases returned to a bricks-and-mortar location, and 29% cited an increase of those returns being fraudulent.

Secondary criminal marketplaces may involve business owners and criminal groups/actors that work together through a conspiracy to defraud and with the intent to traffic stolen merchandise or prepaid gift cards.



The Colorado Organized Retail Crime Alliance Created to Fight Back:

COORCA is a statewide criminal investigative partnership between law enforcement and retail loss prevention specialists. The COORCA acts as an intelligence hub - a partnership sharing cross-jurisdictional information to identify, disrupt, and apprehend organized crime groups and criminal enterprises. Based on this proven approach, the network is able to communicate activity in real-time and helps reduce crime that affects merchants, businesses and consumers.

www.coorca.org

Other resources from the FBI include:

fbi.gov/news/stories/organized-retail-theft

fbi.gov/audio-repository/ftw-podcast-organized-retail-crime-011217.mp3/view

<https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/news/testimony/combating-organized-retail-crime-the-role-of-federal-law-enforcement>

Senate Bill 14 is **supported** by:

- National Federation of Independent Business
- County Sheriffs of Colorado
- Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police
- International Council of Shopping Centers
- Colorado Retail Council

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