

March 9, 2026

Dear State Legislators,

I am writing on behalf of the Colfax Mayfair Business Improvement District to express our strong support for **HB26-1138**, which establishes the Retail Theft Prevention Program within the state Attorney General's Office.

Retail theft, particularly organized felony-level theft, is a significant concern in our district. We have witnessed alarming incidents where organized groups steal from our grocery stores, pharmacy, garden center and hardware store with little consequence. Local law enforcement struggles to address this issue, as temporary arrests often lead to quick releases back into our neighborhood. Despite having an organized Business Watch program that involves property owners, businesses, and local police, we have been unable to break these organized rings. While national retailers may be able to absorb these kind of losses, local businesses cannot.

The establishment of an advisory board and grant program through this bill is a critical first step. The advisory board would be instrumental in finding effective policy solutions and fostering collaboration to combat these crimes. Increasing support and resources is essential for local businesses that are demoralized by these challenges, which also impact perceptions of safety and property values in our area.

By supporting HB26-1138, you will be taking a significant step in protecting our local communities and their economies.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Hilarie Portell
Executive Director
Colfax Mayfair Business Improvement District