

**Written Testimony in Support of
The Organized Retail Theft Act of 2025
Angela Marshall Hofmann
Vice President, Government Affairs
on behalf of JCPenney
Before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary
January 21, 2025**

Chairman William C. Smith, Jr and Members of the Committee:

My name is Angela Marshall Hofmann, Vice President of Government Affairs, and on behalf of JCPenney, I respectfully submit our support for SB 11 the Organized Retail Theft Act of 2025 -- a bill to combat organized retail crime in Maryland.

JCPenney is a 122-year-old company that serves diverse, working families in 49 states and Puerto Rico as well as on-line at jcp.com. Now privately held, we employ over 50,000 associates across the country, and operate 650 stores including 11 stores in the state of Maryland.

Our company exists to celebrate and serve America's diverse, working families, and it's at the heart of all we do. Our commitment to our customer runs deep and it's a deeply rooted part of our legacy. We have been guided by the Golden Rule – the belief that we should treat others how we want to be treated. It's why we are committed to creating shopping experiences that are genuinely rewarding for customers, where they are welcomed to find products, services and apparel that meets their unique needs.

At JCPenney we have a dedicated Asset Protection team whose jobs are to ensure the best experience for our customers, associates, and communities. That means keeping them safe and making every shopping experience count. For this reason, we support and salute your efforts to fight organized retail crime which is today one of the highest priorities for the retail industry.

As you know, organized retail crime has surged across the country as the perpetrators understand and manipulate the gaps in support between agencies, counties, even state lines. That is why this effort requires partnership at all levels and we deeply appreciate the support of our local law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and our fellow retailers.

The retail industry and our supply chain partners are working together – big and small – to support our local communities. These measures bring vital resources to combatting crime and you can count on our support.

Thank you for your consideration of this important and timely matter.