

HB179 – Organized Retail Theft Act of 2025

SUPPORT

January 17, 2025

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Annapolis, MD

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I write to respectfully urge this Committee to support House Bill 179 to help curb organized retail theft in Maryland.

My name is Dermot Fitzsimons and I am Macy's Senior Manager and Public Sector Liaison. It is my privilege to support our 14 stores in the state of Maryland and our thousands of colleagues who live and work in communities across this great state.

News reports in Maryland and elsewhere confirm what all of us are experiencing in our daily lives and Macy's is experiencing in our stores, which is that the number and frequency of retail theft events continues at an alarming pace.

National retail trade groups report that overall losses from retail theft are up when compared to previous years, and Macy's experience is certainly tracking the national statistics.

We are seeing increasingly in our stores that thieves are not stealing merchandise for their personal use. These are not individual shoplifters in a crime of opportunity but all too often part of a planned and coordinated network that steals larger quantities off of shopping lists.

Most disturbingly, the use of violence and threats of violence are on the rise as well. The safety of our customers and colleagues in our retail stores is our top priority.

We and other retailers are taking strong actions in response. We're building close partnerships with law enforcement and district attorneys and we're grateful for their support and cooperation. We've invested in technology to harden our stores, train our employees, and make the merchandise more difficult to steal.

But we need help and that's why we support the work of this House of Delegates and the Maryland Retail Association to give law enforcement and prosecutors tough new tools to strike back at the most sophisticated and recidivist thieves engaged in organized retail thefts. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Dermot Fitzsimons

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