



**1155 F Street, N.W. • Suite 400 • Washington, DC 20004**

**March 2, 2022**

**Maryland State Senate  
Senate Finance Committee**

Dear Chairman Kelly and Vice-Chairman Feldman and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Brian Gamberini and I'm the Sr. Manager, State and Local Government Relations for The Home Depot here in Maryland.

On behalf of our 8,000 plus associates across the state of Maryland, I am here today to support S.B. 610-- the INFORM Consumers Act of 2022 – a bill introduced by Senator Jennings.

As criminals become more brazen, the threats to Home Depot associates and customers have increased. While the recent rash of smash-n-grab incidents has drawn attention across the country, Organized Retail Crime has been a long-term problem for retailers like The Home Depot and businesses across Maryland of all sizes. S.B. 610 gets at the incentive of organized retail crime; the ability for illegal fencing operations to sell stolen products easily, quickly, and anonymously online.

Under S.B. 610, high-volume sellers are being asked to provide six basic pieces of information to the online marketplaces that any legitimate business should be willing to share. This information would then be verified by the online marketplaces – some of the most technologically advanced companies in the world – and then under this bill, portions of that information would be disclosed to consumers in the Maryland, so they know who and where they are making purchases from. It also assures consumers that they will have the ability to communicate with the seller if they product is damaged or defective.

Historically, Maryland has had strong laws regulating transactions at pawn shops; but now the pawn shop has moved online to these marketplaces which are much less

regulated, and sellers are able to operate anonymously. At a time when consumers are doing more and more of their shopping online, it's time to consider protections related to those changing buying patterns.

Right now, over 20 states around the country are considering similar bills and the US Congress is considering an INFORM Consumers Act of its own. Our belief is that Maryland cannot wait any longer to act because the criminals aren't going to wait around until the Federal Government acts on this issue.

I want to thank you for your time today and I ask for a favorable report on S.B. 610.

Brian

Brian Gamberini  
Sr. Manager, State and Local Government Relations  
The Home Depot, Mid-Atlantic Region