

September 17, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Leader Thune, and Leader Schumer:

We write to urge Congress to include the **Combating Organized Retail Crime Act (CORCA)** in the final Fiscal Year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Our organizations represent a broad cross-section of the real estate industry, including owners and operators of retail centers, real estate investment trusts, developers, investors, lenders, retailers, and other businesses that invest in and support communities across the country.

Organized retail crime has become one of the defining challenges facing the real estate industry. Sophisticated criminal enterprises increasingly operate across jurisdictions and state lines, exploiting gaps in coordination among federal, state, and local law enforcement. These crimes affect employees, customers, property owners, retailers, and limit investment in communities of all shapes and sizes across the country.

In 2026, retailers are expected to lose \$49.8 billion to retail theft. Without federal intervention, projections indicate shoplifting could cost retailers over \$59 billion in 2029.¹ However, the impact of organized retail crime extends well beyond retailers themselves. A new nationwide survey from FTI Consulting found that 81% of Americans believe organized retail crime contributes to higher consumer prices. Large majorities also believe it threatens shopper and employee safety, reduces product availability, contributes to store closures, and diminishes the overall shopping experience. Importantly, Americans also want Congress to act: 74% support federal legislation to combat organized retail crime, and the same share specifically support their U.S. Senator voting for CORCA.²

CORCA would strengthen the federal response to organized retail crime by improving coordination among law enforcement agencies and providing additional tools to investigate and prosecute organized criminal networks. The legislation has earned strong bipartisan support, reflecting a shared recognition that Congress can and should do more to combat these increasingly sophisticated criminal enterprises.

¹ Capital One Shopping *Retail Theft (Shoplifting) Statistics* August 28, 2026

<https://capitaloneshopping.com/research/shoplifting-statistics/>

² FTI Consulting: *2026 Consumer Perceptions of Organized Retail Crime*

<https://fticomunications.com/2026-consumer-perceptions-of-organized-retail-crime/>

More broadly, CORCA is one of several bipartisan priorities our organizations are urging Congress to advance before the end of the 119th Congress to support commercial real estate investment, economic development, and communities nationwide. As negotiations on the final NDAA proceed, we respectfully ask that congressional leaders ensure that **CORCA is included in the final version of the bill.** Its bipartisan support and direct impact on the safety and vitality of communities nationwide make enactment this year both achievable and important.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration. The real estate community stands ready to work with you and your staff members to advance CORCA and our industry's other bipartisan priorities before the end of the 119th Congress.

Sincerely,

Commercial Real Estate Development Association

ICSC

Nareit

National Association of REALTORS®

The Real Estate Roundtable