

The National Grocers Association (NGA) represents 21,000 independent community grocers and wholesalers across the United States. Independent community grocers account for 33 percent of all grocery sales, exceeding \$250 billion, and more than 1 million American jobs.

## Independent Community Grocers

NGA's members are independent community grocers that are privately-owned by families or employees. They are vital to the communities in which they are located, and more than half of our membership is classified as "small" under the Small Business Administration's definition. Our members operate in a high-volume, low margin industry with most stores operating on just 1-2% net profit margins.

## Organized Retail Crime Is Getting Worse

Organized Retail Crime was again featured as a top concern among grocers in this year's Asset Protection in Food Retail Report from FMI. NRF estimates that organized retail crime now costs retailers an average of \$700,000 per \$1 billion in sales, and three-fourths of survey respondents saw an increase in this type of crime. 65% of NRF respondents indicated that ORC gangs now exhibit greater levels of violence and aggression than they have before – putting employees at greater risk.

While many independent grocers have programs in place to address this type of crime in their stores, these programs depend on close coordination among states and law enforcement partners. NGA supports the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act of 2023 (S.140 | H.R. 895), a bill that will coordinate the federal response and develop new tools to tackle the emerging issue of organized retail crime.

## What's next?

**Please cosponsor the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act of 2023 (S.140 | H.R. 895).** NGA has provided four key points to weigh when considering this legislation.

### 1. CORCA Establishes a Center to Combat Organized Retail Crime

- ◆ Directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish the Center to Combat Organized Retail Crime headed by Homeland Security Investigations.
- ◆ The Center shall include representatives from HSI, FBI, CBP, USSS, US Postal Inspection Service, the ATF and include representation for the retail sector.
- ◆ Requires DHS and DOJ to provide reports to Congress on ORC activity and enforcement.

# At the HEART of the community.



# Independent Grocers Support Combatting Organized Retail Crime

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## 2. CORCA Develops New Tools to Tackle Organized Retail Crime

- ◆ Organized retail crime is a multifaceted problem that demands innovative solutions. This bill allows federal prosecutors to utilize an aggregate total value of \$5,000 or more over a 12-month period as a predicate for charging the transportation, or sale or receipt of stolen goods. This change from the current \$5,000 threshold allows for businesses like grocery stores to qualify when the individual price of stolen items is low.
- ◆ CORCA also allows federal judges to order criminal forfeiture after convictions of organized retail theft crimes.
- ◆ This bill will also strengthen federal money laundering statutes allowing prosecutors to target the illegal proceeds of organized retail crime groups.
- ◆ CORCA ensures that members of organized retail crime groups who use the internet or other forms of interstate or foreign commerce in furtherance of their illicit activities are investigated and prosecuted.

## 3. CORCA Is Just the Beginning

- ◆ As the Center to Combat Organized Retail Crime is established, it will begin to inform the retail sector on the scale and scope of organized retail crime activities. The data collected and reported on by the Center will inform future policy options to stem this alarming trend in our nation's independent grocery stores.

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