

of duty in 2025 alone. This marks the sixth consecutive year in which over 300 law enforcement officers have been shot.

Mr. Speaker, words alone cannot capture the depth of our gratitude for the service and the sacrifice offered by these brave men and women.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today also in strong support of this resolution, which recognizes the sacrifices made by law enforcement officers across America every day and honors the bravery of those who have fallen in the line of duty and given the rest of us the last full measure of their devotion. These too often unsung heroes have our eternal gratitude, and we must offer our unwavering support to their families and loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, 111 officers died in the line of duty last year, and 30 more have fallen already in 2026. They leave behind wives and husbands, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, and partners and colleagues to remember them, and we must remember them too.

This year 363 names will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in D.C., including two officers from Maryland. I would like to mention Sergeant Brenda J. Lowery of the Cecil County Sheriff's Office died suddenly on June 4, 2024, after working the night shift at the Cecil County Detention Center. Those who knew her recalled how, throughout her nearly two decades of service, she managed to make a positive impact in the lives of not only her fellow deputies, but all of those whom she interacted with each day. A dedicated servant to her community and country, Sergeant Lowery, like many officers, was also a military veteran, a veteran of the United States Air Force. She never stopped serving her country and her community.

Former Chief Edward E. Ivey, Jr., of the Fairmount Heights Police Department in Prince George's County has been described by colleagues as a natural leader and a pillar of his community that he served for 28 years. Chief Ivey passed away after an occupational illness on June 14, 2022. He was posthumously honored by the Chiefs of Police Association of Prince George's County with their Hall of Fame Award.

America's law enforcement officers set out every single day to protect our people. They protect our neighborhoods, our loved ones, our businesses, our schools, our property, and even this building and the people who work within it when called upon to do so.

We recognize that our sworn officers do not make these sacrifices alone. Every day, their families live with the knowledge that their loved one may not return home after the shift. These families, too, bear the heavy burdens of their profession, and we honor them today, as well.

Today, I ask all of our colleagues to join us in honoring all the men and

women who took the oath, dedicating their lives to our communities with honor, duty, and courage and who have fallen in the line of duty. We remain committed to remembering them and honoring them. They will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I will close with this.

The observance of National Police Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day marks a time of solemn remembrance when our Nation comes together to honor the courage, the sacrifice, and the dedication of the noble law enforcement officers and personnel all across the country and right here in Washington, D.C., and on the Capitol itself who promote our safety and our security.

Let us rededicate ourselves to awareness of their service to our communities and our country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsors of this resolution for upholding and honoring the spirit of this moment. I thank my friend from North Carolina for his remarks. I ask all colleagues to support H. Res. 1252, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) for his thoughtful remarks.

In the same spirit that he just articulated, we, as elected officials, must take a stand against these attacks and honor our fallen law enforcement officers.

This resolution takes an important first step, and we collectively will never forget those who made such high levels of sacrifice in the line of duty. It is up to us in Congress to honor their memory and to stand up to protect those who do so much each and every day to protect each of us here.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. KNOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1252.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### COMBATING ORGANIZED RETAIL CRIME ACT OF 2025

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2853) to combat organized crime involving the illegal acquisition of retail goods and cargo for the purpose of selling those illegally obtained goods

through physical and online retail marketplaces, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2853

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Combating Organized Retail Crime Act of 2025".*

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

*It is the sense of Congress that—*

(1) organized theft groups, involving sophisticated and structured groups of individuals, continue to increase criminal activities carried out by the groups against the retail industry and the supply chain of the Nation, and these activities, at unprecedented levels, involve theft and fraud of both physical and digital goods, leading to escalating financial losses and violence in the workplace—all impacting the national economy and security of the United States;

(2) retailers face mounting thefts and fraud because of organized retail crime in and around stores, online, and throughout the retail ecosystem, and, according to the National Retail Federation, larceny incidents increased by 93 percent in 2023 compared to 2019, with a 90 percent rise in average dollar loss;

(3) these thefts are often orchestrated by organized theft groups reselling and redistributing the stolen goods back into the economy of the United States or overseas to gain illicit profit and to finance other criminal activity, and more than 84 percent of retailers report that violence and aggression from these criminal activities has become more of a concern since 2022, resulting in injuries and deaths among employees, customers, security officers, and law enforcement personnel;

(4) product manufacturers and the supply chain of the Nation are victims of alarming increases in cargo theft across rails, roads, and the various distribution points across the Nation;

(5) CargoNet, a database of reported incidents in the United States, reported a 27 percent increase in cargo theft incidents in 2024 compared to the previous year, while during the same period, the average value per theft rose to over \$202,000;

(6) these thefts range from large-scale physical theft of goods from containers and storage to sophisticated cybercriminal methods that divert shipments to illicit receivers, causing significant financial losses and operational supply chain disruptions;

(7) since 2022, more than 30 State laws have been enacted to address organized theft, allow for aggregation of thefts, and adjust penalties and enhancements, including in 2024, California voters overwhelmingly approving a constitutional reform to allow aggregation of multiple or repeated thefts;

(8) although larceny and organized retail crime are sometimes prosecuted at State and local levels, States face resource and investigative challenges from groups operating beyond local, State, and regional law enforcement capabilities, and more needs to be done to address the cross-jurisdictional, interstate, and international aspects of these crimes;

(9) organized theft groups vary in scope and scale, operating across State jurisdictions to avoid or disrupt local, State, and Tribal law enforcement response, and these organized theft groups build hierarchies to easily redistribute stolen goods and illicit profits back into the economy of the United States or overseas with disregard for product and consumer safety;

(10) the groups exist and operate at the local, regional, and transnational level, targeting goods that include raw and finished materials, various branded retail products across all consumer categories, operational assets in retail

commerce such as reusable transport packaging products, and consumable goods including agriculture, food products, and medicines;

(11) these groups are often polycriminal organizations, using profit from the reselling of stolen goods to support crimes involving drugs and weapons trafficking;

(12) the organized theft groups engage in human smuggling and have been known to use migrants to commit crimes to support the organizations;

(13) the groups move products and illicit proceeds beyond the borders of the United States, funding nefarious groups and activities and threatening the integrity of the international economy;

(14) organized theft groups—

(A) threaten the safety and liberty of individuals in the United States when those individuals engage in commerce;

(B) impact the ability of the Nation to distribute goods to consumers, undermine consumer confidence in the supply chain, and threaten the integrity of agricultural and consumable goods;

(C) erode the national economy by increasing the cost of goods, resulting in higher prices for consumers, reducing tax revenues, and impacting employees, customers, and businesses alike; and

(D) impact the national security of the United States through financing transnational criminal activity and providing profit and proceeds supporting larger criminal goals of the criminal organizations; and

(15) it has become necessary for Congress to—

(A) amend title 18, United States Code, to ensure that law enforcement has the legal tools necessary to combat organized retail crime in the same capacity that law enforcement is able to combat theft and diversion from other portions of the supply chain; and

(B) direct the executive branch to create a central coordination center to align Federal, State, local, territorial, and Tribal efforts to combat organized retail crime and organized supply chain crime.

### SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE.

Part I of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 982(a)(5)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (C), (D), and (E) as subparagraphs (D), (E), and (F), respectively;

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) section 659 (interstate or foreign shipments by carrier; State prosecutions);”;

(C) in subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, the following:

“(G) section 2314 (transportation of stolen goods, securities, moneys, fraudulent State tax stamps, or articles used in counterfeiting); or

“(H) section 2315 (sale or receipt of stolen goods, securities, moneys, or fraudulent State tax stamps);”;

(2) in section 1956(c)—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking “and money orders” and inserting “money orders, general-use prepaid cards, gift certificates, and store gift cards”; and

(B) in paragraph (7)(D)—

(i) by inserting “section 659 (interstate or foreign shipments by carrier; State prosecutions),” after “section 658 (relating to property mortgaged or pledged to farm credit agencies);”; and

(ii) by inserting “section 2314 (transportation of stolen goods, securities, moneys, fraudulent State tax stamps, or articles used in counterfeiting), section 2315 (sale or receipt of stolen goods, securities, moneys, or fraudulent State tax stamps),” after “section 2281 (relating to violation against maritime fixed platforms);”;

(3) in section 2314, in the first paragraph—

(A) by inserting “or of an aggregate value of \$5,000 or more during any 12-month period,” after “more;”;

(B) by inserting “embezzled,” after “stolen;”; and

(C) by inserting “, false pretense, or other illegal means” after “fraud”; and

(4) in section 2315, in the first paragraph, by inserting “or of an aggregate value of \$5,000 or more during any 12-month period,” after “\$5,000 or more;”.

### SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTER TO COMBAT ORGANIZED RETAIL AND SUPPLY CHAIN CRIME.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (19 U.S.C. 4341 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 305 the following:

#### “SEC. 305A. ORGANIZED RETAIL AND SUPPLY CHAIN CRIME COORDINATION CENTER.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) CENTER.—The term ‘Center’ means the Organized Retail and Supply Chain Crime Coordination Center established pursuant to subsection (b)(1).

“(2) ORGANIZED RETAIL AND SUPPLY CHAIN CRIME.—The term ‘organized retail and supply chain crime’ includes—

“(A) any crime described in section 659, 2117, 2314, or 2315 of title 18, United States Code that is committed by, in coordination with, or at the instruction of an organization;

“(B) aiding or abetting the commission of, or conspiring to commit, any act that is in furtherance of a violation of a crime referred to in subparagraph (A); and

“(C) other crimes related to those described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

“(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

“(4) EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Executive Associate Director’ means the Executive Associate Director of Homeland Security Investigations.

“(b) ORGANIZED RETAIL AND SUPPLY CHAIN CRIME COORDINATION CENTER.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act of 2025, the Secretary shall direct the Executive Associate Director to establish the Organized Retail and Supply Chain Crime Coordination Center.

“(2) DUTIES.—The duties of the Center shall include—

“(A) coordinating Federal law enforcement activities related to organized retail and supply chain crime, including investigations of national and transnational criminal organizations that are engaged in organized retail and supply chain crime;

“(B) establishing relationships with State and local law enforcement agencies and organizations, including organized retail crime associations and cargo theft associations, and sharing information regarding organized retail and supply chain crime threats with such agencies and organizations;

“(C) assisting State and local law enforcement agencies with State and local investigations of organized retail and supply chain crime groups;

“(D) establishing relationships with retail, transportation, and other companies determined by the Executive Associate Director to have significant interests relating to organized retail and supply chain crime threats, sharing information with those companies regarding such threats, collaborating on investigations and loss prevention activities as appropriate, and providing a mechanism for the receipt of investigative information on such threats;

“(E) establishing a secure system for sharing information regarding organized retail and supply chain crime threats by leveraging existing information systems at the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice;

“(F) tracking trends with respect to organized retail and supply chain crime and releasing annual public reports on such trends; and

“(G) supporting the provision of training and technical assistance in accordance with subsection (c).

“(3) LEADERSHIP; STAFFING.—

“(A) DIRECTOR.—The Center shall be headed by a Director, who shall be—

“(i) an experienced law enforcement officer;

“(ii) appointed by the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and

“(iii) in a Senior Executive Service position as defined in section 3132 of title 5, United States Code.

“(B) DEPUTY DIRECTOR.—The Director of the Center shall be assisted by a Deputy Director, who shall be appointed, on a 2-year rotational basis, upon request from the Executive Associate Director, by—

“(i) the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

“(ii) the Director of the United States Secret Service; or

“(iii) the Chief Postal Inspector.

“(C) FEDERAL STAFF.—The staff of the Center shall include—

“(i) special agents and analysts from Homeland Security Investigations; and

“(ii) detailed criminal investigators, analysts, and liaisons from other Federal agencies who have responsibilities related to organized retail and supply chain crime, including detailees from—

“(I) U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

“(II) the United States Secret Service;

“(III) the United States Postal Inspection Service;

“(IV) the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives;

“(V) the Drug Enforcement Administration;

“(VI) the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

“(VII) the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

“(D) STATE AND LOCAL STAFF.—The staff of the Center may include detailees from State and local law enforcement agencies, who shall serve at the Center on a nonreimbursable basis.

“(4) COORDINATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall coordinate its activities, as appropriate, with other Federal agencies and centers responsible for countering transnational organized crime threats.

“(B) SHARED RESOURCES.—In establishing the Center, the Executive Associate Director may collocate or otherwise share resources and personnel, including detailees and agency liaisons, with—

“(i) the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center established pursuant to section 305(a)(1); or

“(ii) other existing interagency centers within the Department of Homeland Security.

“(C) AGREEMENTS.—The Director of the Center, or his or her designee, may enter into agreements with Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies and private sector entities to facilitate carrying out the duties described in paragraph (2).

“(D) INFORMATION SHARING.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the approval of the Director of the Center, information that would otherwise be subject to the limitation on the disclosure of confidential information set forth in section 1905 of title 18, United States Code, may be shared if such disclosure is operationally necessary.

“(ii) NON-DELEGABLE AUTHORITY.—The Director may not delegate his or her authority under this subparagraph.

“(5) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) INITIAL REPORT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act of 2025, the Secretary shall submit a report regarding the establishment of the Center to—

“(I) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

“(II) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

“(III) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

“(IV) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

“(ii) CONTENTS.—The report required under clause (i) shall include a description of—

“(I) the organizational structure of the Center;

“(II) the agencies and partner organizations that are represented within the Center;

“(III) any challenges required to be addressed while establishing the Center;

“(IV) any lessons learned from establishing the Center, including successful prosecutions resulting from the activities of the Center;

“(V) recommendations for ways to strengthen the enforcement of laws involving organized retail and supply chain crime;

“(VI) the intersections and commonalities between organized retail crime organizations and other organized theft groups, including supply chain diversion and theft; and

“(VII) the impact of organized theft groups on the scarcity of vital products, including medicines, personal protective equipment, and infant formula.

“(B) ANNUAL REPORT.—Beginning on the date that is 1 year after the submission of the report required under subparagraph (A), and each year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit an annual report that describes the activities of the Center during the previous year to the congressional committees listed in subparagraph (A)(i).

“(6) SUNSET.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority of the Center shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date on which the Center is established under paragraph (1).

“(B) WIND DOWN.—The Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to wind down the Center in accordance with subparagraph (A).

“(c) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) EVALUATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act of 2025, the Secretary and the Attorney General shall conduct an evaluation of existing Federal programs that provide grants, training, and technical support to State, local, and Tribal law enforcement to assist in countering organized retail and supply chain crime.

“(2) EVALUATION SCOPE.—The evaluation required under paragraph (1) shall evaluate, at a minimum—

“(A) the Homeland Security Grant Program at the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

“(B) grant programs at the Office of Justice Programs within the Department of Justice; and

“(C) relevant training programs at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

“(3) REPORT.—Not later than 45 days after the completion of the evaluation required under paragraph (1), the Secretary and the Attorney General shall jointly submit a report to the congressional committees listed in subsection (b)(5)(A)(i) that—

“(A) describes the results of such evaluation; and

“(B) includes recommendations on ways to expand grants, training, and technical assistance for combating organized retail and supply chain crime.

“(4) ENHANCING OR MODIFYING TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Not later than 45 days after submitting the report required under paragraph (3), the Secretary and the Attorney General shall jointly issue formal guidance to relevant agencies and offices within the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice for modifying or expanding, as appropriate, the prioritization of training and technical assistance designed to counter organized retail and supply chain crime.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Trade Facilitation and Trade En-

forcement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–125; 130 Stat. 122) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 305 the following:

“Sec. 305A. Organized Retail and Supply Chain Crime Coordination Center.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. KNOTT) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I first would like to begin by commending my good friend and colleague from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE), for the hard work that he has put into not only drafting but ushering this legislation to where we are today.

The Combating Organized Retail Crime Act, colloquially known as CORCA, was the biproduct of collaboration of Members on both sides of the aisle, law enforcement, industry leaders, shipping and transportation companies, and small business owners throughout this country. I was proud to be an original cosponsor of this effort.

H.R. 2853 is an answer to the significant and persistent increase in organized retail crime that we have seen ballooning in recent years across the United States.

Often misunderstood, organized retail crime is a broad category, including everything from theft offenses such as stealing items from convenience stores to cargo theft, gift card theft, and stolen or cloned credit cards. While this may seem isolated or even miniscule when looked at alone, this problem has been escalating across the country at a vast scale.

While precise data on the losses to businesses from organized retail crime is hard to specify and difficult to quantify, it is estimated conservatively that up to \$100 billion annually is the direct cost to businesses across the country.

□ 1620

Organized crime is forcing businesses to close. It is endangering the public. It contributes to the rise in prices for consumers wherever it is. Many organized retail crime rings operate across State and, of course, international lines.

While preventing local retail crime is properly left to the State and local governments, the cross-border nature of organized retail crime makes it difficult for State and local law enforcement agencies to fight these crimes, even if just on a resource level alone.

To be clear, this bill is not about going after the occasional shoplifter who steals an item of food or some small item that is of little consequence. Rather, this bill is going after the professional thieves, those who are repeat offenders who steal for profit and do so on a large scale.

H.R. 2853 provides Federal prosecutors with additional tools to prosecute these and other instances of organized retail crime.

For example, the bill amends title 18 to allow Federal prosecutors to charge receipt of stolen goods or transportation of stolen goods when the stolen property reaches an aggregate value of \$5,000 or more over a 12-month period. It also expands the definition of monetary instrument in the Federal money laundering statute to include general-use prepaid cards, gift certificates, and store gift cards.

Over the past several years, organized retail crime groups have been increasingly utilizing gift card schemes to defraud stores and consumers. These groups record the gift card data in the store, receive notifications when the funds are loaded onto the same card, and then drain the balance before the consumer has the opportunity to use those funds.

This bill further expands the ability of Federal judges to order criminal forfeiture of assets from convictions related to the interstate shipment, transportation, or sale of stolen goods.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it establishes a center to combat organized retail and supply chain crime within the Department of Homeland Security Investigations. The center will be tasked with coordinating Federal law enforcement activities related to organized retail and supply chain crime, including investigations of transnational criminal organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2853, the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act. This bipartisan legislation will address the crisis of organized interstate criminal theft schemes that are costing the retail sector and consumers tens of billions of dollars a year but are often too complex for State law enforcement and prosecutors to address on their own.

In recent years, retailers have sounded the alarm about this crisis, expressing urgent concern that organized retail crime has become a significant threat both to public safety and to the viability of a retail sector already hard-hit by online commerce—threatening the viability of businesses of all sizes, from cargo brokers, shippers, big box stores, and online marketplaces to small, family-owned ma-and-pa retailers.

This is a problem that Members of Congress are hearing about all the time from our constituents. When we talk about the problem, we are talking

about serious criminal enterprises that operate in a coordinated manner to commit large-scale theft of merchandise for resale or to defraud retailers and convert the proceeds directly into cash or cryptocurrency.

This legislation is not aimed at petty shoplifters or small, one-off episodes of theft. We are talking about a multibillion-dollar criminal industry that grows, evolves, and adapts rapidly to the latest technology, security improvements, and modified business practices. These kinds of operations are centrally coordinated, enabled by technology, and very difficult to stop by local police forces.

While organized retail theft endangers the physical safety of retail workers in every sector, this kind of crime hits small businesses especially hard. Family-owned businesses simply cannot afford to replace lost inventory, increase security, make unplanned repairs, and pay the higher insurance premiums that are associated with this criminal epidemic. Small businesses do not have the funds set aside to recruit new employees to replace those who quit because they fear for their safety.

Organized retail crime is centralized and sophisticated. Combating it requires a coordinated Federal law enforcement response. This legislation is a targeted, bipartisan effort to address organized, multi-State criminal networks. It is designed to improve coordination among existing partners, not to expand Federal authority beyond its current legislative scope.

To be clear, let's go through exactly what CORCA does. It creates an organized retail and supply chain coordination center to help local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies across America better analyze the problem and formulate more targeted and effective solutions. The information-sharing provisions are intended to help police forces work together, along with private-sector entities, to prosecute and disrupt the large criminal enterprises that are perpetrating networks of organized retail crime.

The law also authorizes prosecutors to aggregate thefts over a 12-month period to meet the \$5,000 minimum threshold for Federal jurisdiction over certain crimes. It fixes some loopholes in money laundering statutes so that those using gift cards to launder the proceeds of their organized retail crime can no longer dodge money laundering charges.

Finally, the bill directs DHS and DOJ to review and make recommendations to Congress for strengthening grant programs for training and technical assistance.

Importantly, this legislation, which sunsets after 7 years unless it is extended, gives the Federal Government no new authorities. These new activities will take place entirely within existing legal frameworks. It leverages the strengths of local, State, and Federal law enforcement to foster a coordinated response across State lines and, indeed, international borders.

In an era in which the Department of Homeland Security often seems to have lost its way completely, this bill is intended to focus its agents on a staggeringly serious problem that demands their focused attention and expertise.

Some of my colleagues have raised concerns that the \$5,000 threshold in this bill would trigger the involvement of the DOJ in what could be a local shoplifting case. In practice, however, longstanding DOJ policy advises Federal prosecutors to prioritize cases with much higher dollar amounts, leaving most retail theft cases to be charged by State authorities, which cannot effectively pursue cases across State lines. This policy disparity creates an enforcement gap that organized retail theft rings have learned to exploit. It is precisely this reason that gives rise to this legislation.

H.R. 2853 is focused on organized criminal enterprises engaged in cargo theft, gift card fraud, and other large-scale retail theft. These are not isolated incidents or opportunistic low-level offenses. They involve structured networks that move goods and money across jurisdictions, operating with a level of coordination that makes them difficult to detect and prosecute.

H.R. 2853 is a bipartisan effort to address a nationwide problem that indeed requires coordination across agencies, different levels of government, and private industry sectors. By strengthening information-sharing and aligning existing resources, this bill will help law enforcement agencies at every level of government more effectively identify, disrupt, and prosecute coordinated criminal enterprises.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE).

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today in strong support of my legislation, the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act.

Organized retail crime is far beyond isolated shoplifting. It is a highly coordinated criminal enterprise that harms businesses, workers, and families in every corner of our country.

Whether you are a truck driver, a small business owner, or an everyday consumer, this issue affects you.

These criminal organizations are engaging in large-scale theft operations involving violence and intimidation, putting the lives of retail workers, small business owners, and everyday shoppers at risk. They disrupt supply chains, drive up costs, and create economic shock waves that reach far beyond the retail sector.

Cargo theft and supply chain fraud are surging nationwide, and the consequences are serious.

First, it puts hardworking Americans in danger. Our truck drivers and rail workers play an essential role in keeping this country running, and they should not have to fear for their safety on the job.

Second, these crimes disrupt supply chains and raise consumer prices. As we have seen in recent years, when supply chains break down, it is hardworking families who are ultimately paying the price.

□ 1630

The goods stolen by these criminal organizations are not simply resold for profit. In many cases, the proceeds are used to finance broader criminal activity, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, and weapons trafficking.

The Combating Organized Retail Crime Act gives law enforcement the tools they need to combat this growing epidemic. By establishing an Organized Retail and Supply Chain Crime Coordination Center within the Department of Homeland Security, this legislation will improve coordination among Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies.

This bill also strengthens prosecutors' ability to pursue those criminal investigations and hold those threatening our businesses and our communities accountable.

From small businesses on Main Street to retailers operating nationwide, organized retail crime threatens a key pillar of the American economy. We can't allow criminal organizations to intimidate hardworking Americans, threaten jobs, or destabilize communities across our country.

That is why I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, especially this Police Week, and demonstrate that Congress will always stand with law enforcement, protect small businesses, and fight organized crime.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. LEE), who represents the Third District of Nevada and has been such a great champion for this legislation and has educated a lot of the Congress about it, along with her colleague (Ms. TRTUS), who represents the First District.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, during Police Week, I am proud to stand in support of the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act.

Organized retail crime puts all of us in danger. This isn't typical shoplifting. It involves integrated organized networks, often transnational, who are very sophisticated in planning and reselling their items.

Quite simply, it is a coordinated criminal enterprise that hurts consumers, taxpayers, and businesses of all sizes. In fact, it is especially small businesses that often lack security teams, can't absorb large losses, and face higher insurance costs that are hurt the most.

These crimes have more widespread consequences for public safety because these organized groups often resell their stolen goods to finance other illicit activities, including drug and human trafficking operations.

My hometown of Las Vegas is ranked sixth in the Nation for cities affected

by organized retail crime. In Nevada alone, organized retail crime has caused an estimated loss of \$85 million in tax revenues and close to a half a billion dollars in the total amount of goods stolen each year.

This isn't just a financial issue, however. It is a public safety one. Shoppers and retail employees face intimidation, threats, and real physical danger.

We need to work to dismantle these criminal networks. Our local and State law enforcement agencies are doing incredible work, but this shouldn't be left up to local police alone. We need coordination at the Federal level to investigate and prosecute these crimes and link activity across State and transnational lines.

CORCA would update the law to designate organized retail crime as a Federal offense and give law enforcement the tools they need to crack down on criminal operations.

I am grateful that over 200 of my colleagues cosponsored this legislation, and I ask both Democrats and Republicans to join me in passing it to support our local businesses, equip our law enforcement with the resources they need, and keep our retail workers and customers safe.

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS), representing the First District of Nevada.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2853, the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act legislation, which I am proud to co-lead and have been working on since 2021 with then-Representative Buck.

Organized retail crime is one of the most pressing concerns I hear about from businesses, workers, law enforcement, and community leaders, not just in Nevada, but across the country.

As we have heard, these sophisticated operations go far beyond just a kid stealing a candy bar. They require a strong Federal response to protect consumers, local businesses, and transportation networks.

As we have heard from our ranking member in detail about how this bill will work, I ask my colleagues to just think about it in personal terms. When a customer gets ready to go to a store, whether it is to buy razor blades from

Target or an electric saw from Home Depot, what do they find? They find all of these things locked behind glass doors. They then have to call an assistant. The customer has to wait. They can't play with whatever it is or read the description or the specs because this is all locked away protecting it from organized retail crime.

Now, what has that done? That has made it more expensive and more inconvenient. It leads to people staying at home because they are reluctant to go shopping, and they will just do it online. This hurts local businesses, and also it cuts down tax revenue for local governments.

At the same time, it is putting people in danger from these people who engage in this type of crime. They use this money to fund trafficking of all types: humans, drugs, and guns.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in supporting this legislation that will protect workers and customers, support our businesses, and strengthen public safety.

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I commend my friend and colleague (Mr. RASKIN) from Maryland for his considerable scholarship and efforts in getting this bill to the floor. We certainly wouldn't be here without his assistance, and I am grateful for it.

Mr. Speaker, as a Federal prosecutor in my previous career, I worked many years in the organized crime space. I investigated crimes like these. I spoke with the criminals. There is, as we have already discussed, a very deep need for this bill that the general public does not often see. I am not talking about shoplifters. I am not talking about the individual acts of random crime. I am talking about the more proficient domestic and international actors that have a real effect on every business and every customer in this country.

This bill is highly targeted in its scope. It addresses an important issue that is ongoing within our country, and it does not usurp local authority.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. It is an important measure that will protect consumers. It will protect businesses, and it will protect employees all over the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the CBO cost estimate for H.R. 2853.

TABLE 1.—ESTIMATED BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF H.R. 2853

H.R. 2853, COMBATTING ORGANIZED RETAIL CRIME ACT OF 2025, AS REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY ON JANUARY 30, 2026

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—		
	2026	2026–2031	2026–2036
Direct Spending (Outlays) .....	*	*	*
Revenues .....	*	*	*
Increase or Decrease (–) in the Deficit .....	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays) .....	8	114	**

\* = between –\$500,000 and \$500,000.  
\*\* = not estimated.

Increases net direct spending in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037? \*

Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037? No.

Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? Yes.

Mandate Effects:

Contains intergovernmental mandate? No.

Contains private-sector mandate? No.

H.R. 2853 would establish a center within Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to coordinate federal law enforcement activities related to the organized theft of cargo, shipments, and goods, or the transport of counterfeit goods. Under the bill, the center would assist state and local law enforcement agencies with investigations, share information with relevant parties, and track trends related to those crimes. The authority for the center would terminate seven years after its creation.

The bill would require ICE to report annually to the Congress on the center's activities. The bill also would require the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice to evaluate federal programs that provide grants, training, and technical support to state and local governments to assist in countering such crimes, and report to the Congress on their findings.

H.R. 2853 would create new criminal penalties for laundering money from the proceeds of selling or transporting stolen or counterfeit goods, or for using prepaid cards, gift certificates, and store gift cards to launder money. The bill also would create new criminal penalties for transporting, receiving, or selling stolen or counterfeit goods whose aggregate value is \$5,000 or more in any 12-month period. Lastly, the bill would require federal courts to impose criminal forfeiture for the transportation or sale of stolen goods.

The estimated budgetary effects of the legislation are shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2026–2031
Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation							
Estimated Authorization .....	10	21	21	22	22	23	119
Estimated Outlays .....	8	18	21	22	22	23	114

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2853 would increase direct spending and revenues by less than \$500,000 over the 2026–2036 period.

Based on the costs of similar programs within ICE, such as the Intellectual Property Rights Center and the Center for Countering Human Trafficking, CBO estimates that the new center would cost about \$20 million annually, primarily for personnel. Further, we

expect that the bill's reporting requirements would cost less than \$500,000. On that basis, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2853 would cost \$114 million over the 2026–2031 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2853 would increase the receipt of both criminal penalties and forfeitures. Criminal penalties and forfeitures are recorded as revenues, deposited into the Crime Victims Fund and the government's forfeiture funds, respectively,

and later spent without further appropriation. Using data from the U.S. Sentencing Commission for similar offenses, CBO expects that only a small number of people would be subject to penalties or forfeiture under the bill. On that basis, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2853 would increase revenues and the consequent direct spending by less than \$500,000 over the 2026–2036 period. The effect on the deficit would be negligible.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jeremy Crimm. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,  
Director, Congressional Budget Office.

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, let the word go out to all of the organized retail criminal conspiracies, outfits, operations, and racketeering enterprises across America and the world that we are going to have an Organized Retail and Supply Chain Crime Coordination Center. We are going to be working between the Federal Government and the State and local governments in order to crack down on this very serious threat to our small businesses, some bigger businesses, and to all of the consumers and the people of the country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished former prosecutor and Congressman from North Carolina (Mr. KNOTT) for his leadership on this.

We are not powerless. There is definitely something that we can do to stop this. This is a clear and effective bipartisan solution before us.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to support H.R. 2853, and I am happy to yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. KNOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2853, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1640

#### NICS DATA REPORTING ACT OF 2026

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2267) to require the Attorney General to submit to the Congress a report that includes the demographic data of persons determined to be ineligible to purchase a firearm based on a background check performed by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2267

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “NICS Data Reporting Act of 2026”.

#### SEC. 2. NICS REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report containing, with respect to the preceding year, the demographic data of persons who were determined to be ineligible to purchase a firearm based on a background check performed by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, which shall include, disaggregated by the reason for the determination of ineligibility, the following:

(1) The race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, age, disability, average annual income, and English language proficiency, if available.

(2) In the case of each person whose determination of ineligibility was overturned on appeal, the race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, age, disability, average annual income, and English language proficiency, if available.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. ROSS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2267.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we are bringing to the floor the NICS Data Reporting Act. It was inspired in the Judiciary Committee by a conversation that I had with the late Sheila Jackson Lee.

I became aware of a problem with the NICS background check system because John Lott, who is an author of many books, an economist, and a statistician, worked at the Department of Justice and has been privy to some of this data and has discovered that the NICS background check system doesn't work like we think it does, or may actually, in fact, have a racial prejudice built into it.

That is a problem because the right to keep and bear arms, like all fundamental rights protected in the Constitution and given to us by God, should not be based on race, sex, or religion.

The NICS system—that stands for National Instant Criminal Background Check System—is a program that was instituted many years ago that you have to go through when you want to purchase a firearm. You fill out a Form

4473 at the gun store, and you record some affirmations on there that you are not a felon, that you don't use drugs, and you also put on there some demographic data.

The DOJ collects this data, but they have never let us see it. I think we could learn some things and improve their system if we could see this data.

As soon as you fill out the form, they send it in to the central database, and they check to see if you are a prohibited person. In other words, have you been convicted of a crime for which you could serve a year or more, or have you been mentally adjudicated as defective according to this system.

What happens when it does this check is the computers will look for phonetically similar names, and if you share a name, unfortunately, with somebody who is a criminal, even if you are not a convicted criminal yourself, you could be denied the purchase of a firearm. In fact, there have been 2 million denials since this system was put into place in the 1980s. In any given year, we have seen over 100,000 denials, but we know these are mostly false denials because there have only been 12 Federal convictions in a year where there were 100,000 denials.

The problem is, you can appeal this, and if it is your first appeal, you don't get it overridden, you have to employ lawyers. When you have to spend a lot of money to exercise a constitutional right, you are effectively being deprived of that right.

Here is what we believe. If you looked at the data, what you will find is that Black Americans are three times more likely to get a false denial in the NICS background check system and that Hispanic Americans are twice as likely to get a false denial from the NICS background check system as a White American might be.

Why is this? Because they share similar names, surnames and first names, within racial and ethnic groups. If you are in one of these groups and share one of these names with somebody who has been convicted, you can be deprived of the ability to purchase a gun.

This is a problem. We want to see the data, and that is the purpose of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2267, the NICS Data Reporting Act, which would require the Attorney General to submit an annual report to Congress providing demographic data about the individuals who receive denials from the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, NICS, as part of an attempted firearm purchase in the preceding year.

The NICS background system has processed more than 300 million checks since the FBI launched the system in 1998. NICS checks are critical to enforcing our laws that keep certain disqualified individuals from possessing a firearm.