



Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
Senate Bill 268 – Written Proponent Testimony

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Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee:

I write to you to express CCAO's support for Senate Bill 268. SB 268 would increase penalties for theft in office when the value of stolen products or services equals \$150,000 or more. It also requires an offender convicted of theft in office to pay restitution for the costs of auditing any of the public entities that suffered loss as a result of the offense.

Theft in office is a serious crime that harms taxpayers and reduces confidence in our public institutions. Taxpayers expect that their tax dollars will be used for to procure goods and fund services that benefit their communities, not for corrupt activity. Establishing parity in penalties between theft and theft in office crimes will provide greater accountability against public officials who misuse taxpayer resources.

As too often happens, communities which are already the victim of theft in office are left to pay the auditing costs incurred to root out the initial crime. This extra financial burden only further reduces public resources that could have been used to benefit the general public. Requiring offenders to pay restitution for auditing costs is a good safeguard to further protect public resources from corrupt activity.

We commend Senator Wilson for his sponsorship of SB 268 and recommend the committee favorably report this legislation.



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