



Jeffrey A. Crossman
State Representative
15th House District

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Good morning Chairman LaRe, Vice-Chair White, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee. Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony on House Bill 437 to deter package theft within the state of Ohio.

Currently, there is no bill that specifies the offense of postal package theft, nor is there legislation that has existed or has ever been introduced within the Ohio General Assembly to target and criminalize mail package theft. Due to the increasing amount of online shopping in recent years, HB 437 serves as a greatly-needed piece of legislation to prevent and minimize the damage that “package pirates” have caused.

Under current law, individuals that are charged for theft under Revised Code 2913.02, or criminal trespassing under 2911.21, would only be charged with a misdemeanor unless the package was removed from a garage or an enclosed porch under 2911.13. HB 437 would enact section 2911.14 of the Ohio Revised Code to create such a theft as a fifth degree felony. Under guidance from our local Parma law enforcement and prosecutors, HB 437 would increase the penalty for porch piracy to a low level felony as a deterrent, mirroring federal legislation that already considers U.S. mail theft a felony charge.

While we approach the holiday season, nearly 55 percent of Americans will receive at least one weekly delivery from an online retailer and over 1 in 3 Americans will have a delivered package stolen at least once.¹ With inflation and an increased cost of living harming many Ohioans, the price of losing a package goes beyond the monetary impact.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill; feel free to reach out to our office with any questions or concerns.

1. [Package Theft Statistics in 2022 - C+R Research](#)