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May 22, 2024

The Honorable Nathan Manning, Chair
Judiciary Committee
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Manning:

Good afternoon. I'm Elizabeth Burkholder, Director of Asset Protection Central Investigations Global Security for JCPenney, and I respectfully request your consideration of our support for the FORCE Act (SB223) a bill to combat organized retail crime in Ohio.

JCPenney is a 123-year-old company that serves diverse, working families in 49 states and Puerto Rico as well as online at jcp.com. Now privately held, we employ 50,000 associates across the country, and operate 650 stores including 26 stores and 1 distribution center in the state of Ohio.

Our company exists to celebrate and serve America's diverse, working families, and it's at the heart of all we do. Our commitment to our customer runs deep and it's a deeply rooted part of our legacy. We have been guided by the Golden Rule – the belief that we should treat others how we want to be treated. It's why we are committed to creating shopping experiences that are genuinely rewarding for customers, where they are welcomed to find products, services and apparel that meets their unique needs.

At JCPenney we have a dedicated Asset Protection team whose jobs are to ensure the best experience for our customers, associates, and communities. That means keeping them safe and making every shopping experience count. For this reason, we support and salute your efforts to fight organized retail crime which is today one of the highest priorities for the retail industry.

As you know, organized retail crime has surged across the country as the perpetrators understand and manipulate the gaps in support between agencies, counties, even state lines. That is why this effort requires partnership at all levels and we deeply appreciate the support of our local law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and our fellow retailers.

While we may be fierce competitors, this is one area where we work together – big and small – to support our local communities.



The FORCE Act (SB 223) brings vital resources to combatting crime and you can count on our support. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Burkholder

Elizabeth Burkholder
Director of Asset Protection Central Investigations Global Security

CC: Members of Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee