

December 2, 2024

Hon. Nathan H. Manning and Members of the Committee
Committee on Judiciary
Ohio State Senate

RE: HB 366 – Enact FORCE Act

Dear Chair Manning and Members of the Committee:

The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) is a national, century-old, not-for-profit organization supported by approximately 1,200 property and casualty insurance companies, including many who write business in Ohio. Working hand-in-hand with our member companies and Ohio law enforcement, we help to detect, prevent, and deter insurance crimes, including cargo theft.

Cargo theft is an enduring and growing problem with a significant impact on the U.S. and Ohio economy and supply chain. NICB chairs the National Commercial Vehicle and Cargo Theft Prevention Task Force (NCTTF) and has partnered with the Insurance Services Office (ISO) to create CargoNet, a national cargo recovery network. Our case investigations have identified organized criminal groups, street gangs, and opportunistic thieves involved in cargo theft. Organized groups are known to conduct surveillance before attempting a theft and are increasingly leveraging more sophisticated technology and tactics to commit cargo thefts.

Electronics, food, household goods, and pharmaceuticals are among the most common targets of cargo theft. Beyond personal enrichment, stolen cargo is sold on the black market or online auctions with illicit profits used to fund criminal enterprises. Beyond the immediate loss to victims, black market sales of stolen cargo may pose additional harms to consumers – for example, products improperly stored or past expiration that are put into the stream of commerce and dangerous to consumers' health.

House Bill 366 would create the Organized Retail Theft Advisory Council and an investigative task force to combat organized retail theft, including cargo theft. **Accordingly, we ask for your support of HB 366.**

We thank you for scheduling a hearing and for considering our views as you deliberate the merits of the bill. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at hhandler@nicb.org or 312-771-3974.

Sincerely,



Howard Handler, MPPA
Senior Director, Strategy, Policy and Government Affairs
National Insurance Crime Bureau