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For Immediate Release



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## Leading Business Coalition Applauds Introduction of Crime Bills

**Washington, D.C.** – Legislation introduced today in Congress will aid law enforcement in its effort to reduce the growing problem of organized retail crime (ORC), said the [Coalition Against Organized Retail Crime](#).

The Coalition Against Organized Retail Crime supports legislation aimed at protecting consumers by giving law enforcement the tools it needs to prosecute criminals that put the health and safety of innocent and unsuspecting consumers at risk.

ORC involves sophisticated crime rings that move from store to store stealing large quantities of goods. The goods are then sold through flea markets, swap meets, pawn shops and, increasingly, on Internet auction sites. Profits obtained through the commission of this crime are often funneled back into larger criminal enterprises and used to support other illegal activities.

If enacted, the legislation introduced today would bring federal crime laws into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by adding organized retail crime and its facilitation to the federal criminal code.

- **The Combating Organized Retail Crime Act of 2009**, introduced by Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and co-sponsored by Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) would clarify existing law to give law enforcement the tools to fight ORC, require on-line and off-line market places to investigate suspicious sales, and place basic disclosure requirements on on-line marketplaces.
- **The Organized Retail Crime Act of 2009** introduced by Congressman Brad Ellsworth (D-IN) and co-sponsored by Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH) would amend federal criminal code, making it illegal to engage in activities that further organized retail crime. To deter illegal activities of organized retail criminals, it would also impose specific and narrow obligations upon on-line marketplaces known to be used by high-volume sellers of stolen merchandise.
- **The E-Fencing Enforcement Act of 2009**, introduced by Congressman Bobby Scott (D-VA) introduced by Congressman Scott is a carefully tailored bill that tackles the selling of stolen goods on-line, the bill would address ORC by imposing reasonable duties on on-line marketplaces to collect information that law enforcement can in turn use to prosecute those that fence good on their websites. The bill requires that on-line marketplaces halt the sale of goods on websites if the goods are determined to be stolen.

The coalition thanks Senator Durbin and Representatives Scott and Ellsworth for introducing this legislation and for their continued support and leadership on this very important issue. The coalition encourages Congress to act quickly to give law enforcement the tools it needs to aggressively prosecute these criminals and protect innocent consumers from unsafe or damaged goods.

To learn more about organized retail crime and the coalition dedicated to stopping it, visit [www.stopretailcrime.com](http://www.stopretailcrime.com).

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