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Quality Law Enforcement for the Sunshine State

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April 15, 2009

The Honorable Mel Martinez  
356 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Martinez:

On behalf of the Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA), we urge you to support legislation recently introduced in Congress that will protect consumers by reducing a growing criminal activity known as Organized Retail Crime. The bill, S. 470, the Combating Organized Retail Crime Act of 2009, introduced by Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) represents an important step towards giving law enforcement the tools needed to prosecute and deter this crime.

The FPCA is the fourth largest state police chiefs association in the United States. It is composed of more than 750 of the state's top law enforcement executives. The FPCA serves city police departments, college and university police, private business and security firms, as well as federal, state and county law enforcement agencies, representing every region of the state.

Organized retail crime is a serious and ever-growing crime that poses serious risks to the safety and well being of our communities. Federal criminal statutes are needed to compliment state laws and to provide law enforcement with the seamless legal framework to deter and prosecute this complex criminal activity. State efforts in this area are important and the law in Florida goes a long way toward addressing this issue but the multi-jurisdictional and multi-modal characteristics of this crime demand a federal solution.

The FPCA urges Congress to enact legislation to assist all law enforcement agencies in the prevention, investigation and prosecution of organized retail crime. We support your leadership on this important national issue and remain committed to working with your office and other members of the law enforcement community to prevent this type of crime

Again, thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Chief Gerald M. Monahan, Jr.  
President

GMM/am