

To the office of U.S. Representative Josh Harder

Re: HR 10124 (119th Congress), Mail Theft and Postal Key Crime Prevention Act of 2026 • Latest action (2026-08-20): Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
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Office of record (Congress.gov): 209 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC • (202) 225-4540

Organized Mail Theft Prevention and Sentencing Reform Act

The measure, as described from the official record: To reduce organized mail theft and related fraud by improving federal coordination, prosecution, and sentencing for such offenses.

THE PROPOSAL

This Act establishes a dedicated task force within the United States Postal Inspection Service to coordinate multi-jurisdictional investigations of organized mail theft and related fraud schemes. The task force shall include representatives from the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and state and local law enforcement agencies as appropriate. The task force shall issue an annual report to Congress on its activities, including the number of prosecutions, convictions, and the value of stolen property recovered.

The United States Sentencing Commission shall, within one year of enactment, review and propose amendments to the sentencing guidelines for offenses under 18 U.S.C. § 1708 (theft of mail matter) and related fraud offenses, giving particular attention to aggravating factors such as the involvement of organized criminal networks, repeated offenses, and the use of violence or threats. The Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to Congress.

No additional appropriations are authorized beyond the current budget of the Department of Justice and the Postal Service. The task force shall operate within existing staffing levels, reassigning personnel as needed. The authority granted under this Act shall sunset five years after the effective date, unless reauthorized by Congress.

The Attorney General shall ensure that prosecutions under this Act are prioritized in districts with high rates of mail theft, as determined by the Postal Inspection Service. The Act does not create any private right of action or expand federal jurisdiction beyond existing statutory authority.

OPERATIVE PROVISIONS (VFA PROPOSAL)

Funding Source	Existing appropriations for the Department of Justice and the United States Postal Service; no new funds authorized.
Funding Amount	No new funding; costs absorbed within current budgets.
Sunset Years	5 years
Oversight Body	United States Postal Inspection Service, with annual reporting to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees.

Enforcement Mechanism	Attorney General and Postal Inspection Service shall prioritize investigations and prosecutions; no civil liability.
Effective Date	90 days after enactment.

CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS

- Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 (Postal Power)
 - Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause)
 - Tenth Amendment (limits federal action to enumerated powers; state coordination is voluntary)
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WHY BOTH SIDES CAN BACK IT (VFA'S ASSESSMENT)

Democratic priorities: strengthens consumer protection by deterring mail theft that harms individuals and small businesses; ensures federal resources are directed at organized crime affecting vulnerable populations. Republican priorities: keeps spending within existing budgets, does not create new agencies or unfunded mandates, respects federalism by coordinating with state and local law enforcement rather than preempting them, and includes a sunset provision to limit federal overreach.

Values for America is a nonpartisan, constitution-first SI think tank. This brief is informational. It is a policy proposal, not law, and it does not support or oppose any candidate or party. Full analysis and sources:

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