



Bill Proposed \$100 Million Dollar-Solution for Cargo Theft

By Jonathan R. Todd

Applause can be heard from diverse sectors of private industry as Congress redoubles its resolve against threats in the supply chain. New bills introduced in recent months target supply chain challenges at home and abroad. The importance of domestic manufacturing, warehousing, transportation and logistics to our national security posture stands front and center.

The Safeguarding our Supply Chains Act (H.R. 8834) was introduced by Rep. David Valadao (R-Calif.) on June 25. The bill has received commendations from several trade associations, including the American Trucking Associations, the Association of American Railroads and the Retail Industry Leaders Association. It is intended to identify and defeat organized crime operations behind the statistical rise in cargo thefts.

The legislation commits \$100 million in appropriations between 2025 and 2029 to carry out its mission by fostering stronger coordination between federal agencies, law enforcement and the private sector. It would establish a supply chain crime coordination center within Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), a division of the Department of Homeland Security.

The bill explains that the center will “collect and analyze data related to supply chain fraud and theft” and “identify regions in the United States, modes of transportation, distribution networks and retail stores that are experiencing high volumes of organized crime.”

A supply chain fraud and theft task force would also be created under the bill, led by HSI and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), with a diverse membership including law enforcement, carriers and others in the private sector. The legislation mandates that the task force be formed within 120 days of enactment. Its stated mission is to “address supply chain fraud and theft throughout the rail, motor carrier, and intermodal systems, as well as detect, disrupt, and defer organized theft groups that are targeting all stages of the supply chain” through five targeted activities:

- (1) facilitating collaboration between stakeholders;
- (2) enhancing information sharing;
- (3) tracking trends in organized crime;
- (4) establishing private sector relationships; and
- (5) leveraging HSI and FBI systems to secure the information shared on organized crime.

Under the bill, the task force would issue a report to Congress within 180 days of its formation and annually thereafter, detailing its activities and their impact on the supply chain.

America's place in the global supply chain and the impact of geopolitics in our national security interests are the subject of another new bill.

The Promoting Resilient Supply Chains Act of 2024 (S. 4375) was introduced in the Senate by Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) and Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) on May 21. This bill is similar to corresponding efforts introduced earlier in the House.

It tasks the Commerce Department with forming a supply chain resiliency and crisis response program for identifying and addressing vulnerabilities in domestic manufacturing capacity for critical industries and emerging technologies.

The bill recognizes that those potential vulnerabilities may take the form of warehousing, transportation and distribution operations supporting domestic manufacturing.

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NSRMCA Partners with Offshift To Improve Truckers' Health

The National Star Route Mail Contractors Association (NSRMCA) — which represents the transportation companies that comprise the Postal Service's surface transportation network — has partnered with Offshift, a digital health company focused on improving the health of truck drivers.

Offshift provides truck drivers customized health plans and a concierge health coach to encourage healthier living on the road. The program, which integrates with employers' insurance, is the brainchild of physical therapist Dr. Mark Manera. Offshift focuses on preventative care, lifestyle changes, addressing musculoskeletal injuries and improving medication adherence.

The program is accessed through a mobile app available in the Apple App Store and Google Play. It includes video exercises in and around the truck,

along with habit-based coaching to track participants' progress.

"Offshift is focused on getting drivers engaged with their health and helping them achieve their goals anywhere they drive," Dr. Manera said. "The program is geared toward efficiency, which is vital in the time-sensitive world of transportation. So, for over the road drivers, we concentrate on activities they can perform in the cab of their truck, at a truck stop, or in their living room on home time!"

"This is an exciting solution to a problem that has long plagued the transportation industry: a lack of options for healthy living on the road," NSRMCA Executive Director Greg Reed said. "NSRMCA is delighted to share this innovative solution with postal transportation suppliers. Healthier drivers equate to safer drivers and better service to the American people."