

Submitter: Helen Liu
On Behalf Of: Asian American community
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1516

Dear Chair Bowman and the Oregon House Rules Committee:

I am a Taiwanese American and a long time resident of Eugene, Oregon having lived here in since 1977.

I am testifying in support of SB 1516A because it addresses a REAL PUBLIC SAFETY GAP in Oregon's pretrial system.

Our community has experienced multiple and devastating robberies. These racially-targeted crimes have left us feeling frightened and traumatized. While we were elated when burglars were arrested, we were incredulous to learned that a wealthy and organized crime ring has been able to post bail allowing these burglars to FLEE the area immediately! These particular criminals are not part of this community and they have no ties to Oregon. We know they will never, ever, return to be arraigned, let alone see actual jail time. They are like hit-and-run drivers!

I IMPLORE YOU TO DO THE RIGHT THING and pass SB 1516A. If we allow this loophole to exist, no amount of good work by law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges will ensure criminals face trial and serve time. Please help close this loophole!

SB 1516A will restores balanced, individualized decision-making by allowing judges to consider concrete risk factors. Public safety depends not only on fair treatment of defendants, but on a system that can ensure people charged with serious and repeat offenses are actually present to face trial.

Please pass SB 1516A so we can ENSURE THAT OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM CAN FUNCTION AS INTENDED!

Thank you!

Helen Liu in Eugene, Oregon