

February 28, 2026

Dear Chair Bowman and the Oregon House Rules Committee:

I wish to testify in support of SB 1516A: this bill addresses a real and growing public safety gap in Oregon's pretrial system. For too many years, individuals and communities across Oregon have had little recourse to protect themselves in the aftermath of attacks on their personal property. This problem has most recently afflicted Oregon's Asian American/Pacific Islander communities, as various gangs and individuals have burglarized and vandalized their homes. The impact of this activity has been palpable throughout our communities; but as the mother of Asian American daughters, I am particularly concerned with this vulnerability and its psychological effects.

I understand that SB 1516A would allow judges to make decisions regarding the flight risk of apprehended individuals and, where appropriate, to detain such individuals until their trial. I understand that too often such individuals have simply fled the state and even the country, leaving the victims of their crimes with no recourse for redress of their losses.

The plight of the Asian American/Pacific Islander communities is a bell-weather for many other groups and individuals who may need to seek recourse and justice from our legal system. For that reason, I urge you and your colleagues to support the passage of SB 1516A.

Sincerely,

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