

To: Members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly

Re: Support for SB 1516 – Pretrial Release Provisions

As a resident of Eugene, I write in support of the pretrial release provisions contained in SB 1516.

Our community has endured a series of highly organized burglaries targeting Asian American families and small business owners. Reporting in The New York Times, Eugene Weekly, and The Register-Guard describes coordinated crews that surveilled victims, used signal jammers to defeat alarm systems, and moved quickly along the I-5 corridor. More than 20 homes in Eugene alone were reportedly targeted, with losses totaling in the millions of dollars.

In several instances, suspects arrested in connection with these burglaries were able to post bail and leave custody, with some later failing to appear. Community members expressed fear and frustration at public safety forums, and victims described not only financial devastation but a deep loss of trust and security.

SB 1516 makes an important clarification: a standing pretrial release order does not limit a magistrate's authority to independently evaluate the primary and secondary release criteria in each individual case. Those criteria include protection of the victim and the public, the nature of the charge, prior criminal history, likelihood of appearing in court, and risk of further violations.

This clarification does not eliminate pretrial release, nor does it undermine the presumption of innocence. Instead, it restores judicial discretion to ensure that release decisions fully consider community safety and risk of flight in serious cases. In situations involving organized, mobile crime groups, courts must retain clear authority to weigh these risks carefully.

SB 1516 strengthens confidence in our justice system by ensuring that pretrial decisions are individualized, evidence-based, and centered on public safety.

I respectfully urge your support for this important provision.

Sincerely,

Eric Dziura

Eugene, Oregon