

Submitter: Elaine Sedlack
On Behalf Of: Burglary victims
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1516

To whom it may concern:

I am a concerned Eugene resident who was shocked to learn of the pretrial release of the Asian burglary suspects. To have the judge be legally constrained to hold the suspects in custody, was disheartening and potentially dangerous. I can only imagine how the victims must have felt. It must have added to their trauma.

I am testifying in support of SB 1516A because it addresses a real and growing public safety gap in Oregon's pretrial system. In recent years, communities across the state have experienced organized, repeat property crimes carried out by individuals who have strong incentives and demonstrated ability to flee the jurisdiction before trial. When courts lack clear authority to consider flight risk and danger to the community, defendants are released under conditions that do not realistically ensure their appearance, undermining accountability and public confidence in the justice system.

SB 1516A does not mandate detention or roll back due process protections. Instead, it restores balanced, individualized decision-making by allowing judges to consider concrete risk factors—such as prior failures to appear, multi-jurisdictional activity, and organized criminal conduct—when determining pretrial release. 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.

SB 1516A strengthens that balance and helps ensure that our justice system can function as intended.

Sincerely,
Elaine Sedlack