Submitter: Abby Gershenzon

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1516

Due to this crime wave against Asian American businesses, I am writing to support
the passage of SB 1516A.

The bill would help ensure trial appearance in situations where organized crime
increases flight risk. For example, where burglaries are committed by organized
crime
groups, a crew can burglarize a home and avoid accountability by simply posting
$5,000 or $10,000 in bail and fleeing the jurisdiction. There is no deterrence or
disincentive without assurance that the defendant is likely to appear for trial.
Lane County has experienced at least three "waves" of these burglaries targeting
AAPI
homes. Other parts of Oregon have experienced similar crimes targeting the homes
of
AAPI community members, as have other parts of the country. At least one home in
Lane County was targeted three separate times. This has made some victims fearful
of
coming forward and reporting, and other AAPI community members have reported
feeling unsafe leaving their homes, even for work or to attend community or cultural
events. Unless we do more to protect against these crimes, there will be
additional waves of burglaries, and AAPI community members may have trouble
feeling safe in their homes or in the community.
All community members deserve to feel safe in their homes. In order to protect the
community and create accountability for these crimes, it is essential that our justice
system be allowed to take its course. Where there are elements that would increase
flight risk or danger to the community – as with the burglaries targeting AAPI
homes – a judge should be able to take that flight risk or danger into account in
detaining the defendant until a fair trial can be held.
SB 1516A promotes due process, strengthens fair and individualized pretrial release
standards, and protects victims from crimes that have disproportionately harmed
them
on the basis of race.

Thank you for your consideration,
Abby Gershenzon