

Submitter: Kris Jennings

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1516

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.

As part of the Asian American community here in Oregon, I know first hand the feeling of fear and helplessness that these repeated crimes against Asian Americans has had on our whole community.

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.

As Oregonians, we need to put the decisions concerning these repeat offenders back in the hands of qualified judges.