

Submitter: Amy Gibson
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1516

TESTIFYING IN SUPPORT OF SB 1516A

Please use this link to submit testimony on SB 1516A:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2026R1/Testimony/HRULES/SB/1516/2026-03-02-08-00?area=Measures>

We encourage you to use your own words (and experiences, if you feel comfortable) to explain your support for the bill, but you are also welcome to use any portion of the sample testimony provided below.

TESTIMONY SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BEFORE MONDAY MORNING AT 8:00 AM.

Why It Matters:

Senate Bill 1516A is a bill proposed by the Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee. It was approved unanimously by the Senate and is now pending in the House before the Rules Committee.

On March 2, Monday, at 8:00 am, there will be a public hearing with the House Rules Committee, which will determine whether the bill passes to a floor vote before the House (which would be necessary for the bill to become law).

SB 1516A is an omnibus bill, meaning that it has multiple measures in it. One of those provisions concerns pretrial release of criminal defendants. That provision enables judges to consider flight risk and/or danger to the community when determining whether to release a defendant pending trial.

In the burglaries targeting the homes of Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPI), it has been challenging to detain defendants pending trial. In Lane County, for example, even where flight risk is significant, prior bail/detention reforms make it challenging to detain defendants in state court pending trial. As a result, in the AAPI burglary cases, a number of burglary defendants were released, only to flee the jurisdiction. This deprives victims of the opportunity to seek accountability through the criminal justice system. SB 1516A would help ensure that defendants are not released, only to flee and avoid facing a trial.

SB 1516A would also 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.

PLEASE pass SB1516A!

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy Isler Gibson
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