

Submitter: Gloria Kim  
On Behalf Of: Peter and Byung Kim  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1516

Members of the House Rules Committee:

I am writing in support of SB 1516A on behalf of my parents who unfortunately joined the long list of Asian American victims across Oregon who have been systematically targeted by multi-jurisdictional organized burglary rings.

My father immigrated to Oregon over 45 years ago when he fell in love with the natural beauty and sense of safety Oregon offered. After decades of hard work my parents were finally on the cusp of retirement when their home was burglarized after extensive surveillance, and they lost their life savings. While the financial loss has been devastating, what has been more heartbreaking has been their complete loss of safety and security in the state they have called home for most of their lives.

Even though it has been more than 6 months since my parents were victimized, they still live in constant fear. They don't feel safe at home, they don't feel safe at work - no place feels safe to them anymore. Despite their crippling fear and anxiety, they have bravely chosen to publicly speak out on several occasions to help raise awareness of the issue. Even then, my father is still afraid to drive anything other than an inconspicuous black cargo van, and my mother is still scared to leave the house - all because they are terrified of drawing attention simply for being Asian. Instead of enjoying retirement, my parents have to go to work every day while continuously looking over their shoulders and grappling with PTSD symptoms.

I am asking the House Rules Committee to show their support for victims and the AAPI community of Oregon by voting in support of SB 1516A. If we do not take action now, the Asian American community of Oregon will remain vulnerable, at risk, and relentlessly targeted by these sophisticated burglary rings as there is little else deterring them from returning to Oregon and repeating these targeted burglaries of Asian American homes over and over again.

I ask the House Rules committee to please remember that the impact of these targeted attacks against the Asian American community of Oregon extend far beyond the immediate victims and mere property loss. These deliberate and targeted burglaries also have deep and rippling harmful impacts on family members and the broader community, including loss of faith in the judicial system, if we continue to allow the exploitation of a legal loophole that has resulted in the Asian American community of Oregon being terrorized for several years.

I know Oregon can and wants to do better, and voting in support of SB 1516A is an absolutely necessary first step.