



Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler
City of Portland

February 20, 2018

The Honorable Jennifer Williamson, Chair
House Rules Committee
900 Court Street NE, HR 50
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee:

I write in support of HB 4161 to help address the growing problem of car theft in Oregon, the impacts of which are acutely felt within the City of Portland.

The rising frequency of car thefts, due in part to difficulties prosecuting these crimes, has visible and inequitable impacts across Portland. My office has received many calls and emails from community members who are immensely frustrated and concerned with car thefts in our community. Portland Police Bureau statistics show that motor vehicle thefts in Portland have climbed rapidly since 2015, jumping almost fifty percent between the years 2016 to 2017.

The burden of crime is being borne disproportionately across the City. A quarter of all Portland car thefts occur in just five neighborhoods, all in East Portland. Car theft has an outsized impact on low-income Portlanders who often rely on a car to get to work and perform daily tasks.

Thank you for taking up this important issue impacting the lives of far too many Oregonians. I urge your support of HB 4161.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ted Wheeler