

Submitter: Mike Bragg

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1516

I'm a resident of Lane County, and I'm writing because I'm very disturbed by how many Asian American families across Oregon have been victimized by home burglaries, only to see the persons arrested released on minimal bail amounts while awaiting trial. This has happened several times in Lane County, where I live. It leaves victims and others in the community feeling that nothing happens if the defendants leave before a trial can even be held. I know how hard it already is for many victims to report what's happened to them, especially when there are language barriers. When there's no real accountability because someone can just flee and disappear, it sends a clear message that the system won't protect you. That makes people stop reporting. It makes people lose faith in our justice system.

To me, SB 1516 is just common sense. When a court is deciding whether someone should be released before trial, it makes sense to look at whether that person is likely to come back.. That shouldn't depend on what kind of crime it is or who the victims are. It's about whether the process can actually work. If people believe the system can't even make sure someone shows up to face charges, they're not going to trust it. This bill helps restore that trust.