

Submitter: Rory Everitt

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 our state have experienced significant property crimes carried out by individuals who cannot call themselves Oregonians and part of an organized crime ring. These individuals are recruited from other states or other countries and given tools and financial backing to perpetrate campaigns of burglary and pillaging on Oregon citizens. When apprehended, these individuals are bailed out by their parent organizations and 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. I have witnessed this firsthand in the recent spate of home burglaries targeting the homes of Asian American Pacific Islanders. Defendants in State custody have been released pretrial and unilaterally fled, whereas those in federal custody have been detained until trial due to judges ruling on this high flight risk.

SB 1516A does not mandate detention or roll back due process protections. Instead, it restores balanced, individualized decision-making by allowing judges to consider concrete risk factors—such as prior failures to appear, multi-jurisdictional activity, and organized criminal conduct—when determining pretrial release. 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. SB 1516A strengthens that balance and helps ensure that our justice system can function as intended. Please approve measure SB 1516A.