

Members of the House Rules Committee:

I am writing to you as an Asian resident of Lane County, and member of the board of the Asian American Council of Lane County, to insist on your immediate support for SB1516A.

The Asian community is currently being, and has been, targeted systematically by professional burglary rings from South America. This has been confirmed and discussed in a town hall held in Eugene, OR, on October 2025. Police chiefs from Springfield and Eugene, the Lane County Sheriff, state prosecutors, the Mayor of Eugene, among others, gathered together to provide community input and discuss these racially targeted burglaries that have been occurring in our area for years.

These burglary rings are sophisticated; confirmed to use trackers, pose as service workers at homes, watch schedules of the residents of these homes, and return to burglarize their home and terrorize their sense of security. These burglars use methods such as manipulation of service utilities to homes, jamming of cellular and wifi signals, and disabling security systems; all methods that in addition to being crimes of their own, are contributing to these widescale burglaries.

Asian residents who are targeted in these burglaries are losing entire an entire life's accumulation of possessions, memories, valuables, and even more importantly, the sense of safety and security that they had once possessed prior to being victims of a targeted crime. Our society places the utmost respect on justice, laws, and serving our communities, and these professional criminals are aware of this, and are taking advantage of them. While our justice system does have a pretrial process, one that allows for the accused to be considered innocent until proven guilty, and allows bail based on a number of factors, these criminals are aware of this, and have been using it to their advantage. Being foreign nationals, confirmed in the October 2025 town hall by all mentioned above, they have no ties to this country, and have been confirmed to have fled the country when posting bail. This denies the respect and process of our judicial system, and denies the victims of these burglaries the justice that our legal system provides.

SB1516A looks to provide a solution to this injustice occurring to the victims of our communities within these situations. This bill allows the judges a level of incredibly necessary flexibility to consider a defendant's danger to the community, and likelihood of fleeing before the trial. The bill tells criminals that loopholes to justice are not exploited, and sends a message that the due process that is fundamental to our legal system, is applicable to both victims, as well as the accused. Justice can not be possible if the our legal system allows a loophole for these criminals and accused to not face the process of law. For this reason, I would insist that you vote YES on SB1516A, to protect victims, as well as the system of law and order that we value as a country, state, and community.

Sincerely,  
Lora Athitan