

Submitter: Lijuan Lin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1516

I have lived in Eugene for over 5 years. I came here from China to be with my children and grandchildren, thinking this would be a peaceful place for my old age. But my heart is heavy. In my neighborhood, we see the same people taking things that do not belong to them, over and over again. These are not just poor souls making a mistake; they are organized, and they have many places to run.

I am here to ask you to support SB 1516A because, to an old woman like me, it feels like there is a hole in our safety. Right now, it seems the courts have their hands tied. They see someone who has run away before, or someone who belongs to a group that does harm across many cities, yet they must let them go. When these people disappear before their trial, there is no accountability. It makes us feel that the law has no teeth and that our safety does not matter.

This bill, SB 1516A, is not about being cruel or taking away rights. It is about balance. It allows a judge to look at a person's history to see if they have skipped court before or if they are part of a professional criminal ring—and make a wise, individual decision. In my culture, we believe that for a system to be just, it must be able to function. If a person charged with a crime does not show up to face the judge, the system is broken.

Please, help restore our confidence that the law will work as it is intended. We need a system that ensures those who repeatedly hurt our community are actually present to answer for what they have done. Please support the passage of SB 1516A.