

Submitter: Haydn Zhang

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1516

I have called Eugene my home for eleven years now. I love this city—the trees, the river, and the quiet neighborhoods where I have raised my child. But lately, that quiet is being broken. I am writing to you today to voice my strong support for SB 1516A.

I have several close friends who own small shops and businesses here in town. These are hardworking people who have spent years building something for their families. Recently, some of them have been targeted by organized groups—people who don't just steal once, but come back again and again. It is heartbreaking to see their hard work taken away, but what is more frustrating is what happens after the police do their jobs.

Right now, there is a gap in our system. We see people who are part of these professional criminal rings get caught, only to be released almost immediately because the courts feel they don't have the clear authority to look at the real risks. These individuals have the resources and the "know-how" to leave town or even the state before they ever see a judge for their trial. When they disappear, my friends are left with no justice and a deep feeling that the system doesn't care about their safety.

SB 1516A is the balance we need. It doesn't tell judges they must lock everyone up, and it doesn't take away anyone's rights. It simply gives our judges the common sense to look at the facts. If someone has a history of skipping court, or if they are clearly part of a professional "crew" that moves from city to city, the judge should be allowed to consider that.

Our justice system only works if people actually show up to face the charges against them. For my friends who are afraid to open their doors some mornings, and for all of us in Eugene who want to keep our community safe, please support this bill. It ensures that the "public safety" we talk about is more than just a word—it's a system that actually functions.

Thank you for your time and for listening to our concerns.