

Submitter: Grant Johnson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1516

I live in Lane county, and I am shocked to learn that the security of my neighbors, mainly the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities have been targeted for burglary. Even worse, this is not contained only to the I-5 corridor, but also across Oregon. I add my testimony as a citizen who personally knows some of these people, and have heard the stories of people that are fearful of sleeping in their homes at night. I have learned that organized crime groups have formed up to evaluate and target specific Asian families for vulnerability, and they know exactly when families are out of their homes so they can enter in without any barriers and take advantage of the financial resources they can steal. These are well planned operations.

These families have seen no justice in the Oregon law system. This goes far beyond the injustice of stealing ones property or finances, it goes far beyond the limits of where people of any race, should have the comfort of knowing their own personal space is safe to enter at any time without fear of someone having been in their home, or the possibility of showing up when someone is still in their home. The mental anguish of living under this fear factor should not be the norm in Oregon. And yet, our justice system allows for pretrial release, allowing for the individual(s) to flee the state. The ongoing circular nature of this does not hold criminals accountable, nor does it give any assurance to the victims that this will ever end. So far it hasn't.

I am in support of SB 1516A because its the determinant we need in Oregon to offer an assurance to citizens, that they can live safely in their homes without fear. Judges in our state must have the ability to render judgments on criminals who do good people harm. It must change from this current mentality of catch and release to repeat, to a sound punishment of crime and harm to Oregon residents. The appearance that Oregon is allowing this type of crime to continue must end immediately.