

House Criminal Justice Committee
Opponent Testimony
House Joint Resolution 2
Written Testimony Only

Dear Chairman LaRe, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee:

My name is Arlene Schler, and I live in Cleveland, Ohio. Because of my interest in criminal justice reform, I have been tracking HB315 and SB182 which represent a bipartisan effort to make comprehensive improvements to the bail system. Using these bipartisan bills to adequately address issues about the consideration of public safety would be part of the responsible, deliberative process of the Ohio Legislature.

House Joint Resolution 2, unfortunately, perpetuates again the false idea that public safety is served by the amount of bail that is set. The Resolution continues the status quo of wealth-based detention. I oppose House Joint Resolution 2 because it is a hasty response to a difficult issue, inspired more by scoring political points than policy considerations.

These hasty joint resolutions undermine the work of the bipartisan effort in HB315 to make real changes to the bail system and carefully address how public safety fits into the bail decision-making process. We don't need HJR 2, and I urge you to vote NO if given the opportunity to vote on it.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

Arlene Schler