

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

Jan Wiebe

April 4, 2022

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

My name is Jan Wiebe and I live in Bluffton, Ohio. I am an educator and a concerned citizen. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **opposing House Joint Resolution 2**.

I oppose HJR 2 because it increases the injustices in the system. I oppose these changes because:

- I oppose wealth-based detention. There are approximately 12,000 legally innocent people held in Ohio's jails every day, many of whom are locked up because they cannot afford the cash bail amount set in their case.
- I am concerned about public safety because currently people are released based on how much money they have, not on whether they pose a threat. I do not want dangerous people running free just because they are rich.
- So much money in Ohio is wasted on jailing non-violent people who just aren't rich enough to pay bail. Based on an analysis of 4 counties, 63% of people being held pretrial were charged with a misdemeanor or non-person felony. Using these percentages, Ohio could save approximately \$200-250 million annually by not jailing those with misdemeanors.
- Pretrial jail should only be used when there is a safety risk or a flight risk. Wealth should have nothing to do with it.
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This Committee already has meaningful, well-thought-out, comprehensive bail reform legislation before it—House Bill 315. House Bill 315 makes our communities safer by giving courts and prosecutors tools to protect public safety while at the same time ending the wealth-based detention that harms so many of our neighbors. Ohioans like me do not want or need HJR 2, and I urge you to vote no if given the opportunity to vote on it. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Jan Wiebe