

House Criminal Justice Committee

Opponent Testimony

House Joint Resolution 2

Written Testimony Only

Rabbi Jonathan Perlman

April 5, 2022

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

My name is Rabbi Jonathan Perlman, and I live in Cincinnati, Ohio. I am a Jewish community leader and deeply concerned about bail reform. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **opposing House Joint Resolution 2**.

I oppose HJR 2 because it maintains the double standard of pre-trial wealth-based detention, creating one system for the rich and another for the poor. I also oppose these changes because:

- I believe that all citizens are guaranteed a presumption of innocence and should not be locked up prior to a trial.
- I am aware of the different application of bail to citizens depending on their race.
- I witness the damage done to individuals and their families when they are held in jail pre-trial and suffer life changing consequences.
- I understand that those who pose a threat to public safety can be held pre-trial through court ordered detention and not by imposing bail.

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.

Rabbi Jonathan Perlman