

House Criminal Justice Committee

Opponent Testimony

House Joint Resolution 2

Written Testimony Only

Cassandra Lewis

April 4, 2022

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

My name is Cassandra Lewis and I live in [XXXX], Ohio. Let me introduce myself: I'm an Advocate for the Bail Reform Coalition, a law-abiding Citizen, and Child of God more importantly. I advocate for those without the resources and knowledge revolving around the justice system. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony opposing House Joint Resolution 2.

I want to share a statement regarding my loved one who unfortunately is in the County jail. She is a creative, great, developing young lady. She has a lot going for herself and recently was accepted into the College of Business. However, a recent incident happened and left her behind bars with an outrageously high bond (\$100,000) without a 10% down plus a secured home bond on top of that (this is ridiculous). She poses no threat to society and has never been in trouble with the law. There is no need for her to be behind bars until she is proven with factual evidence guilty. Because of my experience, I oppose HJR 2. It doubles down on the status quo and situations like my loved one's. We already have a comprehensive fix to our bail system with HB 315. HB 315 will protect individuals like my loved one, and would be of great benefit right

about now. This Bill would ensure that she was out- not locked up on a high bond, while being able to communicate properly with her attorney. We need this bill to continue to protect those less fortunate and make sure no one is incarcerated just because their bond is too high.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Lewis