

Senate Judiciary Committee
Senate Bill 182

Rabbi Jonathan Perlman
May 27, 2021

Dear Chairman Manning, Ranking Member Cecil Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Rabbi Jonathan Perlman and I am a resident of Cincinnati. I strongly support Senate Bill 182.

I want to live in a State of Ohio that exhibits a presumption of innocence for all citizens.

I want to live in a State of Ohio that does not jail individuals because they cannot afford cash bail.

I want to live in a State of Ohio without thousands of individuals in jails who have not been charged with a crime.

I want to live in a State of Ohio that does not coerce individuals to accept plea deals as a preferred alternative to being held in jail.

I want to live in a State of Ohio that doesn't cause individuals to lose their jobs, homes or children because they are being held in jail pretrial.

I want to live in a State of Ohio that believes in the humanity and potential of every human being.

In the words of one of the most famous Ohioans, Toni Morrison, bail reform will help us to "remain human and to block the dehumanization and estrangement of others".

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote yes on this critically important bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.