

Senate Judiciary Committee
Proponent Testimony
Ohio Senate Bill 182
Written Testimony Only
Laurie Albright

June 5, 2021

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

My name is Laurie Albright and I am a resident of University Hts Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on Ohio Senate Bill 182.

In meetings with other community members, I have heard story after story of how unnecessary pre-trial detention has damaged people's lives by forcing them to lose jobs, housing, relationships, not being able to care for dependents, and making it extremely difficult to participate in preparing their defense. The current two-tiered system of justice we have, where people with money are NOT held pre-trial, while people without money ARE HELD, is not acceptable and unconstitutional.

It is more than unfortunate that we currently have a system that uses money as a proxy for decisions that should be made directly regarding flight risk and community safety. Ohio Senate Bill 182 moves us closer to a fairer justice system in Ohio. I urge you to not only support this bill, see that it gets out of committee to the full Senate, but to promote its passage among your senate colleagues.

This important opportunity to create a more just system, insure community safety, and be proud, rather than embarrassed, by our Ohio laws must not be squandered.

Thank you for considering this written testimony. I urge you to vote yes on this critically important bill.