

Testimony on Senate Bill 182

Senate Judiciary Committee

June 16, 2021

Chair Manning, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Committee Member Thomas, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in support of SB 182.

I am strongly in favor of SB 182, which would reform Ohio's cruel, racist, expensive cash bail system.

Thousands of Ohioans who have not been convicted of a crime are in jail because they cannot afford bail. But rich Ohioans accused of the same crimes get to pay money to go home. This current system disproportionately affects Black men and their families, who must do without their support while they sit in jail for a crime they may not even have committed.

Our current bail system is also expensive, as housing these thousands of inmates who cannot afford bail is certainly not cheap. Eliminating cash bail would save millions of tax dollars which could then be redirected to more essential programs and services. In addition, having incarcerated people at home with their families would reduce those families' dependence upon social services, saving even more money.

Please support SB 182 and end cash bail. It's a racist and expensive system that needs to be eliminated.

Thank you.

Shannon Hanf