JUSTICE
ACTION NETWORK

May 30, 2023

Chairman Manning
Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee
Statehouse - Senate Annex
Columbus, OH 43215

Senator Hudson, Assistant Minority Whip
Ranking Member, Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee
Statehouse - Senate Annex
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Senate Bill 122

Chairman Manning and Ranking Member Hudson:

I write to you today to extend the Justice Action Network's support of Senate Bill 122, legislation which would codify Ohio Criminal Rule 46 governing pretrial release and detention into state law, and thank you for sponsoring this legislation. The Justice Action Network is the nation's largest bipartisan organization working to reform the criminal justice system at the state and federal levels.

After the passage of Issue One in 2022, the Ohio Constitution was modified to require "public safety" as a consideration for setting monetary bail, and the authority of the Supreme Court of Ohio to establish the amount and conditions of bail was removed. As a result, the Supreme Court of Ohio moved to strike Rule 46 this year in its entirety. Following the Supreme Court's action, we hope the Ohio Legislature swiftly passes Senate Bill 122, which will ensure the justice system has a clear roadmap for managing pretrial detention and release so that Ohio citizens are treated fairly.

Without this legislation and absent Rule 46 in either administrative law or the Ohio Revised Code, Ohioans interacting with the judicial system will experience very different outcomes, which will potentially create constitutional issues related to due process and equal protection. Senate Bill 122 is needed to ensure that Ohio continues to have a uniform system for pretrial release and detention, and we hope that the Ohio Legislature will swiftly pass this bill.

Thank you again for leading on this important issue and sponsoring this legislation. You have the Justice Action Network's full support.

Sincerely,

Lauren Krisai
Deputy Director
The Justice Action Network

CC: Senate President Huffman
       Minority Leader Antonio
       Members, Senate Judiciary Committee