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Proponent Testimony, written-only, Senate Bill 182
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To: Chairman Manning and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

My most recent experience with Bail in Ohio was in 7/7/2010 (I am now living in Kentucky but plan to move back to Cincinnati soon). My girlfriend and I were ending our relationship and arguing about who would get the dogs. I moved out but went back to the house to walk the dogs.

I had purchased a cell phone when we were together, but then her mom got her a new one. She left the old one at the house and when I was there walking the dogs I picked it up and I saw pictures that showed her with a new boyfriend. When the cell rang it was the new boyfriend and he asked me what I was doing in the house. I called the police because the new boyfriend threatened me. So I called her and I told her I was going to stop walking the dogs, and that she and her new boyfriend needed to walk them. She got mad and she called the police and said I stole her cell phone. When police came they said I should turn myself in because if I didn't there would be a warrant out for me. I told the police I left the phone at the house, and that I didn't want the warrant on me. So I did turn myself in. I did that on a Friday, and since it was a weekend I had to stay til Monday for my court appearance. The bond was set for \$500, but I was unemployed and so I had to stay in jail. During the court appearance I called the judge an idiot (which was dumb) and ended up on house arrest, staying with a friend. After three weeks I got a call saying the charges were dropped.

When you're arrested you're allowed to make one phone call. If you call someone from jail to post bond, most people won't answer the call since it says it's from the Cincinnati Correctional Center. Most people aren't going to even listen to the recording, because if the person accepts, that person gets charged for the call. A lot of people don't want to accept the call since it's a collect call.

When you're jailed, they take your money except for enough to buy junk food in the commissary. Whatever other money you had on you is returned to you by check. And they still charge you about \$30 for being there. So when you leave, you owe them! So you step into a situation that spirals. And if you can't afford it that messes up your credit because they send it to a credit bureau.

My feeling is, if you're a person who hasn't been in jail recently, they should go by your income and see if you can get bond. I work temp jobs and it may take me a week or so to raise the money", but I shouldn't have to be locked up.