

Senate Judiciary Committee

Proponent Testimony

Ohio Senate Bill 182

Written Testimony Only

Marybeth Anderson Keppler

June 15, 2021

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

Hello! My name is Marybeth, a resident of Cuyahoga County, and I am writing in support of the proposed legislation SB-182. As I'm sure you're all well aware, the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution expressly prohibits excessive bail. However, for far too long, the subjective phrase *excessive bail* has hampered our democracy and added unneeded costs to taxpayers throughout the country. Fortunately for Ohioans, the time for this needless waste has potentially come to an end. With SB-182, we can abolish unfair bail practices, saving citizens much trauma and misallocated resources.

It is likely obvious to you, but bears repeating, that Ohioans held without conviction for months on end is unjust treatment for these individuals. Furthermore, so many of these Ohioans take unfair plea deals simply to get out of incarceration. This is not justice, it is an affront to their civil liberties and makes a mockery of our justice system. Nationwide, a whopping 2/3 of jail inmates were held without any conviction in 2015 (Minton & Zheng, 2016). This is outrageous, wasteful, and should be stopped immediately. (source: Minton, T.D., & Zheng, Z. [2016]. Jail inmates in 2015. *Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin*, U.S. Department of Justice. Retrieved from <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/ji15.pdf>)

With SB-182 (and its sister legislation in the Ohio House), we can rid of these arcane and egregious practices, customizing bail to a far more reasonable sum, so that fewer resources are wasted overall. I urge you to please pass SB-182 into law so that it may quickly begin benefiting the lives of countless Ohioans.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Marybeth Anderson Keppler, RN, BSN, M.Ed