

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

Alexander A. Lower

June 14, 2021

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

My name is Alex Lower and I am a resident of Cincinnati. I am 28 years old, with a Master of Education degree from Xavier University and my first house in Pleasant Ridge. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony for Senate Bill 182. I strongly support this bill.

It is awful to imagine that I could be arrested and thrown in jail before having a chance to defend myself. Right now, the only way to avoid that fate is by coughing up money: either my own or borrowed from a predatory lender.

People cannot afford bail and they cannot afford to be jailed either. A missed day of work means a lost job. A missed appointment with a child means loss of custody. A missed clinic appointment means no prescription refills or treatments.

The current work-arounds do more harm than good. Plea deals can punish innocent but desperate people. Bail bond lending is predatory and criminal in its own right.

Passing this bill does not mean that criminals will walk free. It means that each accused person is allowed their due process. Individuals who are a flight risk or threaten others will be screened and detained. The rest - the vast majority - will be able to go on with their lives without the burden of bail.

There are better, more proactive, and less punitive incentives for appearing at court dates - even a simple reminder text can be effective. This is not to mention the hundreds of millions of dollars that can be saved by avoiding premature incarcerations.

There is much criminal justice reform to be done. This is just one strong step. I urge you to vote yea on this bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.