

Senate Judiciary Committee  
Proponent Testimony  
Senate Bill 182  
Written Testimony Only  
Harrison Mills  
June 15th, 2021

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

My name is Harrison Mills, I am a part-time masters student at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and a resident of Lakewood, Ohio.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on Senate Bill 182.

Pretrial detention is an entirely wealth-based practice in the criminal legal system, not only because it keeps detained those citizens who lack the financial resources to post their bail in the short term, but there are material long term consequences for these individuals as well: individuals incarcerated in pretrial detention face a much higher risk of losing their means of transportation if they are forced to choose between car payments and their own release; a significant risk of losing their job due to multiple days of absence, therefore further diminishing their capacity to secure their own release; and they are even at risk for losing custody of their children if they are unable to secure child care during their detainment and/or court dates.

The discriminative nature of pretrial detention is not only made obvious by an individual's wealth determining how long they stay incarcerated, but data shows that length of time spent in pretrial detention is *causally* related to an individual's likelihood of eventually being convicted or arrested on other charges. The Ohio State Bar association cited in early 2020 that somebody incarcerated for just three days while waiting for their arraignment is 39 percent more likely to be arrested on additional criminal charges while on pretrial release than somebody who spends only one day in pretrial detention; a person incarcerated for longer than eight days is 50 percent more likely of the same than somebody who spends one day in jail.

An individual's financial resources causally affect their ability to secure their own release, and they increase the likelihood of future convictions or arrests, and none of it has anything to do with real culpability.

The long term consequences of maintaining the wealth-based system of pretrial detention ripple beyond just those directly caught inside of it; a recent ACLU of Ohio report found that bail reform would save \$199 to \$264 million each year. We are continuously investing a significant amount of our tax dollars into maintaining a practice that operates by class disparity rather than actual culpability, which not only makes this an unwise investment but an actively destructive one. These investments would be better spent on social services, drug rehabilitation programs, housing, and healthcare, to name a few. I believe that the safest communities are ones in which their residents have the necessary resources to meet their needs for a high quality of life.

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote yes on this critically important bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Cordially,  
Harrison Mills