

His bail was set too high for any of our family members to afford. While incarcerated he lost his housing and his monthly benefits from Social Security. Once he was released, he had an even bigger battle ahead of him. Having an eviction on his record made it extremely hard for him to find a new place to live. Here it is 2021 and my brother is still homeless, living in a low barrier shelter in Cincinnati all as a chain reaction to the events of January 2019. Bail Reform MUST happen now as there are many people just like my brother who have been unable to put the pieces of their life back together.

My name is Diane Parker, and I am a resident of Hamilton County. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on Ohio Senate Bill 182. I support SB 182 as written to prevent what happened to my brother from others. January 2019 was a traumatic month for my family. After months of working with mental health providers to get my brother stabilized. Without our knowledge he decided to stop taking his medication because he felt "fine and no longer needed medication". One day my mom noticed that my brother kept going to the window and was whispering to himself. As the day went on, he got increasingly worse. Around 5 pm he started accusing my mom of telling her neighbors that he was crazy. My mom decided to call 911 to get the mobile crisis to come out. The 911 operator decided to send the police. The police arrived and took him to jail on domestic violence charges. My mom made it clear that she did not want to press charges, but she did want him to get the help he needs. He was booked at Hamilton County Justice Center late January and held until May of that year. When he went to jail, they did not give him any mental health treatment at all. We had to constantly call there, and when he finally got out of jail, he went to Summit behavioral Health to get re-medicated and regulated. He lost his Medicaid and food stamps and so he could not even pay for medication. He assumed the public defender was against him, so he did not want to work. How did he get out of jail? It took forever to get in touch with public defender. He finally called back and Diane explained everything that was going on with him, and the PD said "oh my god that makes so much sense. I've been getting continuances because I didn't know what to do." Then the Public Defender asked the judge to switch him to mental health court. Before they could do that, my mom was not showing up to court because no one was listening to the fact that she did not want to press charges, so she did not want to comply. Finally, they dropped the charges.