

Senate Judiciary Committee  
Proponent Testimony  
Senate Bill 182  
Written Testimony Only

Scott Stuart Seaton-Todd

June 5, 2021

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

My name is Scott Seaton-Todd and I am a resident of Lake County. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on Ohio Senate Bill 182.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Scott Seaton-Todd and I am a self-employed courier who deals with a variety of people on a daily basis. I strongly support Senate Bill 182.

I support this bill for many reasons, one of which is the fact that wealth-based detention of people until they stand trial causes much more harm than good. This unnecessary detention creates a much higher chance of the less wealthy citizens losing their livelihood, their health, and their case, all of which detrimentally harms their community. I've been in the position of losing my job due to being detained before my trial, and had I been able to make bail, I would have been free to continue working. However, because I didn't have the cash for bail, I wasn't able to return to work. I lost my job and my car, simply because I did not have cash for bail. The conditions of my release were not responsive to any flight risk or danger-to-others I did or did not pose, the conditions of release were entirely dependent on my ability to pay.

I'm happy to see a bill which would rectify these wrongs. It's an exciting day for the state of Ohio that we could potentially legislate against the current injustice of wealth-based pretrial detention. I think of all the citizens accused of a crime who cannot be with their community, or continue working at their job, simply because they cannot afford the price of freedom. I'm glad we have the opportunity to pass a bill that presumes release, has hearings on—and limits the financial conditions—of this release, and ensures the right to counsel at these hearings!

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