

Rev. Eileen F. Vizcaino, registered voter 3701 Mayfield Road, #205 Cleveland Hts., OH 44121
Re: Senate Bill 182, Proponent June 6, 2021 Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Because you were elected to address the needs of the People of Ohio, I'm writing on their behalf, and mine, to urge you to support and pass SB182. Like 75% of Ohio voters, I believe Ohio's criminal justice system is in need of reform. 77% of Ohio voters favor a hearing before a judge within 48 hours of detention Covid19 taught Ohio the danger of overcrowded prisons, yet 63% of people in Ohio jails are there for misdemeanors and non-person felonies. SB182 effectively addresses all those issues. Ohio legislators recently hammered out the budget for the next fiscal year. There is never enough money for all our needs. Would \$200million help? That's how much, and more, we could save with effective pretrial reforms. SB182 address over-incarceration

. As a retired career classroom teacher, I saw up close the importance of parental presence and support for children and teens, and the terrible harm when a parent is missing. The scars are lasting and destroy the student's ability to concentrate and learn. The present uniform cash bail system incarcerates cashpoor people for long periods while awaiting a hearing, often leading to a loss of a job, ability to pay rent, and even child custody. SB182 addresses how bail is determined and targets the responsibility and accountability of our judges.

The present cash bail system undermines the very essence of justice in our criminal legal system. Threatened with long incarcerations awaiting a hearing, defendants are pushed into a deal to plead guilty to a lesser charge so as not to lose jobs and family. But this leaves them with a record, shutting them out of future housing, insurance and jobs. .SB182 addresses long waits for a hearing

. Media headlines are now proclaiming the scarcity of workers. How many potential workers are incarcerated because they cannot pay cash bail when accused of low level, non violent charges. How much is that costing Ohio?: The United States is only one of two nations still imposing cash bail. The other is the Philippines. Help our nation join the rest of the world's 21st century judicial systems.

Support and pass SB182, and without any amendments. Build Ohio's trust in our government and our judicial system.

Sincerely, Eileen F. Vizcaino