

Good Afternoon,

My name is Calvarex Wills. I am a resident of Middletown, Ohio where I have raised my four children. I am currently a licensed chemical dependency counselor for the state of Ohio. I am a proponent of Senate Bill 182 for a few different reasons. One I believe the current bail system preys on the financially poor of the state. I also believe bail may not take into account those that have committed minor crimes due to MH issues and could benefit from getting proper mental health counseling, or medication as stipulations to bail. And last, I have myself been arrested for minor drug offenses, which were considered felony offenses at the time and had to sit in jail a little while before I could post bail. The time I spent in jail prevented me from being able to hire an attorney. I was sent to prison for .08 grams of crack cocaine. Which is at the most about \$5 worth. My public defender told me to take a plea and I would not be sent to prison. In the end I was sent to prison. If I were allowed to go home under stipulations, I could have continued working my job and hired an attorney that would not have lied to me and fought for me to avoid prison for a minor drug offense. I think the money taxpayers would save by eliminating cash bond could be used to create programs or refer people to programs that could aid in them improving their lives. We also must not forget that sometimes the person arrested is innocent of any

crime and due to bail have to sit in jail for months and sometimes over a year fighting a case.

As someone who has reformed my life and today a taxpaying citizen, I am for eliminating bonds for non-violent crimes. When bond is necessary a hearing with guidelines would prevent judges or prosecutors from setting high bonds based on emotion that is often passed down to them by police officers who pass false information due to personal vendettas. At the end of the day more incarceration is not the answer. The cash bond system needs to be revamped and allow those arrested the opportunity to prove they are innocent from home. Allow them to find employment that will allow them the opportunity to hire an attorney to aid in their defense.