

TESTIMONY SUPPORTING SB 182  
SUBMITTED BY ANDREA R. YAGODA, PRIVATE CITIZEN

Chair Manning, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. My name is Andrea R. Yagoda, I have been a resident of Ohio since 1974 and am a retired attorney. I commenced my practice as a criminal trial lawyer working for the Public Defender's Office . Thank you for affording me the opportunity to testify in support of SB 182.

As a criminal defense attorney there were many time where my client was financially unable to post bail. As a result s/he lost their jobs and their family life was disrupted. These consequences suffered as a result of pre trial confinement were worse than those ultimately imposed by the court.

Sadly, as a result of pre trial confinement the defense attorney is oftentimes faced with the conflict of whether to file motions, which would suspend the speedy trial computation, and thus a client remains incarcerated longer verses making a legal argument like a Motion to Suppress, etc. The rights of the accused verses confinement should never be an issue. To end pre trial confinement many clients would want to plead guilty even though they proclaimed their innocence and had good defenses as the will to get out and resume their lives is great.

This Bill is more equitable than the system I experienced and will not pit the rights of an accused against his/her pre trial confinement. It will work to guarantee that those with financial means will not have better access to freedom while awaiting trial but hopefully will produce more equitable results. This Bill will also alleviate overcrowding of our jails and save jails, counties and the state money.

I urge this committee to vote yes on this bill. *Andrea R. Yagoda*

