



**Testimony by Jessica Dickinson, Ohio Fair Courts Alliance  
On House Joint Resolution 2  
Before the Ohio House Criminal Justice Committee  
April 5, 2022**

Chairman LaRe, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony to House Joint Resolution 2, an unnecessary and misguided resolution to amend Ohio's Constitution to include "public safety" as a factor the courts can consider regarding bail. This testimony is on behalf of the Ohio Fair Courts Alliance, a statewide network of organizations, community leaders and concerned citizens. We are dedicated to creating a court system that exemplifies and protects equity, fairness and justice for all.

We oppose this resolution to amend Ohio's Constitution regarding bail. The sole purpose of cash bail is to ensure a person's attendance in court. Ohio has an overreliance on a cash bail system that allows dangerous people to buy their way out of jail while those who pose no threat languish in jail if they cannot afford their release. Regardless of intent, the efforts to amend the state constitution will unfortunately double-down on this often-ineffective approach.

This Committee already has meaningful, well-thought-out comprehensive bail reform legislation before it, House Bill 315. House Bill 315 makes our communities safer by giving courts and prosecutors tools to protect public safety while at the same time ending the wealth-based detention that harms so many Ohioans.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jessica Dickinson  
Ohio Fair Courts Alliance