

House Criminal Justice Committee

Opponent Testimony

House Joint Resolution 2

Written Testimony Only

Jean Swartley

April 6, 2022

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

My name is Jean Swartley and I live in Cincinnati, Ohio. I am a retired social worker who joined a study group because of my concern about mass incarceration. The focus of the group has become bail reform. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony opposing House Joint Resolution 2.

I oppose HJR 2 because it takes us in the wrong direction regarding bail reform. Having higher cash bails does not make the public safer. Already there are too many people locked up solely because they cannot afford the bail set in their cases. Many of those folks do not pose a threat and the consequences of being locked up are often dire.

This Committee already has a better option in House Bill 315. That bill gives courts and prosecutors tools to protect public safety along with ending the wealth based detention. Too many people are harmed by the current system. I urge you to vote no on HJR2. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Jean Swartley