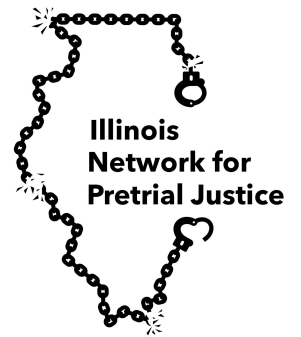


November 9, 2020

The Honorable JB Pritzker
State Capitol
207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706
Sent via email to [REDACTED]@illinois.gov



Re: Faith Leaders Call for Illinois to End Money Bond

Dear Governor Pritzker:

As many as 250,000 people will move through county jails in Illinois this year, some staying for hours and days, others for months and even years. The majority of these people are awaiting trial and presumed innocent. Even more concerning, most are incarcerated because they simply cannot afford to pay a money bond. **As faith leaders, we call on Illinois legislators, your office, and Lieutenant Governor Stratton and her office to end this wealth-based system.**

As people of faith, we understand that each life is sacred. We know that equitable justice is essential. The great prophet Isaiah proclaimed that we must do the work of binding up the brokenhearted, proclaiming release for captives, and securing liberation for prisoners. We know that this wealth-based system is unjust and we need prophetic voices and action.

Access to money should never determine whether someone is jailed or free to go home to their families, jobs, physician's care, classroom, or any other part of their lives. The practice of requiring people merely accused of a crime—people who are innocent until proven guilty—to pay money to gain their freedom while awaiting trial is immoral and unfair.

The harms of money bonds reach far beyond individuals and disproportionately burden families that cannot afford to pay them. The result is jail for the impoverished and freedom for the wealthy. The individuals jailed lose their jobs, their housing, and sometimes even custody of their children. Their loved ones lose caretakers, primary income-earners, and companions. We need a justice system that repairs communities instead of further injuring them.

Illinois elected officials must take swift action to remedy this injustice and do so in a way that reduces the number of people jailed while legally innocent. We are grateful that Governor Pritzker's administration remains committed to the same vision for fairness and we urge the legislature to make it a reality. Let us listen to the prophet Amos and allow justice to roll on like a river throughout our beautiful state. **We, nearly 200 faith leaders from different traditions and regions of the state, join together in calling on the Illinois General Assembly to end money bond in 2020.**

Signed,

Abdul Malik Mujahid, President, Sound
Vision Foundation

Ahmed Taha, President, Muslim American
Society of Urbana-Champaign

Aiman Beg, Board Member, Illinois Muslim
Civic Coalition

Ali Yurtsever, Executive Director of Islamic
Society of Midwest

Alka Lyall, Pastor, Broadway United
Methodist Church

Ashfaq Mohiuddin, UMMA Center
Barbara Stanford, St. Louis Meeting,
Religious Society of Friends
(Quaker)

Beverly L. Wilkes-Null, United Methodist
Clergy

Bishop Sally Dyck, Northern Illinois Annual
Conference of the United Methodist
Church

Chan Ik Choi, Site Pastor, Urban Village
Church

Cynthia Breunlin, First United Methodist of
Oak Park

David Cherry, President, Leaders Network

David Eber, Assistant Rabbi, Jewish
Reconstructionist Congregation

Derek Elmi-Buursma, Pastor, Loop
Christian Reformed Church

Dilnaz Waraich, Interfaith and Outreach
Co-Chair, Muslim Community Center

Dr. Dilara Sayeed, President, Illinois Muslim
Civic Coalition

Dr. Khalid Abdus Sami, Masjid Al Huda

Dr. Marvin E. Wickware, Jr., Assistant
Professor of Church and Society and
Ethics, Lutheran School of Theology
at Chicago

Dr. Saima Azfar, ICNA Relief

Fr. Larry Dowling, Pastor, St. Agatha
Catholic Church

Grant Swanson, Deacon, Urban Village
United Methodist Church

Halil Demir, Executive Director, Zakat
Foundation of America

Harriet Dart, Chair, Justice and Witness
Ministry; Chicago Metropolitan
Association, United Church of Christ

Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid, Justice For All
Imam Badruddin Abdul Hafeez, Masjid
Dawah

Imam Ousmane Sawadogo, Central Illinois
Mosque and Islamic Center of
Urbana-Champaign

Imam S. T. Ibrahim, Founding Imam,
Mosque of 'Umar, Inc.

Imam Tariq I. El-Amin, Masjid Al-Taqwa
James A. Hobart, Affiliated Minister, First
Unitarian Church

Jeremiah Wright, Trinity United Church of
Christ

Jerome Jackson, Pastor, Southern Mission
Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Lawrence Marshall, Pastor, Payne
Chapel AME Church

Minister Attorney M. Michelle Day,
Nehemiah Trinity Rising

Mohammed Faheem, President, American
Muslims Assisting Neighbors
(AMAN)

Muhammed Aslan, Chaplain at UC
Medicine

Pamela Rumancik, Minister, Unitarian
Church of Hinsdale

Pastor Adam Malak, Independent

Pastor Cy M. Fields, New Landmark MB
Church

Pastor Debra Sutter, First Mennonite
Church of CU

Pastor J. Kevin James, Jr., Macedonia
Baptist Church, East St Louis

Pastor Norma Patterson, Good Shepherd of
Faith United Church of Christ, East
St Louis

Pastor Seamus Enright, Reynolds United
Methodist Church

Rabbi Ariel Naveh, Illini Hillel Cohen Center
for Jewish Life

Rabbi Aryeh Bernstein, Chicago Director,
Avodah Justice Fellowship

Rabbi Binah B. Wing, Temple Beth-El

Rabbi Brant Rosen, Tzedek Chicago

Rabbi Bruce Elder, Congregation Hakafa

Rabbi Bruce Elder, Congregation Hakafa

Rabbi Daniel Kirzane, Oak Park Temple

Rabbi Danya Rутtenberg, Independent

Rabbi Dr. Rachel S. Mikva, Chicago
Theological Seminary

Rabbi Ellen Weinberg Dreyfus, Shir Tikvah

Rabbi Frederick Reeves, KAM Isaiah Israel

Rabbi Ilana Axel, Beth Tikvah Congregation

Rabbi Ilana G. Baden, Temple Chai

Rabbi Lauren Henderson, Mishkan Chicago

Rabbi Laurence Edwards, Congregation Or
Chadash, Emeritus

Rabbi Lisa Sari Bellows, Congregation Beth
Am

Rabbi Maralee Gordon, Interfaith
Community for Detained Immigrants

Rabbi Max Weiss, Oak Park Temple B'nai
Abraham Zion

Rabbi Megan GoldMarche, Base Hillel

Rabbi Michael A. Weinberg, Temple Beth
Israel, Skokie

Rabbi Paul F. Cohen, D.Min., D.D., Temple
Jeremiah

Rabbi Rachel Weiss, Jewish
Reconstructionist Congregation

Rabbi Scott Gellman, Temple Sholom of
Chicago

Rabbi Seth M. Limmer, Chicago Sinai
Congregation

Rabbi Shoshanah Conover, Temple Sholom
of Chicago

Rabbi Suzanne Griffel, Jewish Council on
Urban Affairs

Renée Antrosio, Pastor, New Covenant
Fellowship

Rev. Patrick Price, Unitarian Universalist
Minister

Rev. Alan C. Taylor, Unity Temple Unitarian
Universalist Congregation

Rev. Alan Taylor, Minister at Unity Temple
UU Congregation

Rev. Alexander Sharp, Clergy for a New
Drug Policy

Rev. Allen Harden, Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Rock Valley

Rev. Allison Bengfort, Pastor, St. John's
Lutheran Church of Wilmette

Rev. Allison Farnum, Director, Unitarian
Universalist Prison Ministry of Illinois

Rev. Amy M. Heinrich, Associate Pastor,
First Presbyterian Church of
Libertyville

Rev. Anna Voinovich, Downers Grove First
United Methodist Church

Rev. Ben Adams, Holy Trinity Lutheran
Church and the South Loop Campus
Ministry

Rev. Betty Birkhahn-Rommelfanger,
Retired Clergy/Chaplain, United
Methodist

Rev. Brian Hastings, Pastor, First Baptist
Church of Bloomington

Rev. Brian Sauder, Faith in Place Action
Fund

Rev. Bruce Ray, Pastor, Kimball Avenue
United Church of Christ & Nuestra
Señora De Las Americas Episcopal
Church

Rev. Catherine Healy, Rector, Church of St.
Paul & the Redeemer

Rev. Charles Straight, Faith United
Methodist Church

Rev. Colin Knapp, Pilgrim Congregational
Church

Rev. Colleen Vahey, Minister, Third
Unitarian Church of Chicago

Rev. Darice Wright, New Faith Baptist
Church International

Rev. Darrick Jackson, Affiliated Community
Minister, Second Unitarian Church of
Chicago

Rev. David B. Thornton, Sixth Grace
Presbyterian Church

Rev. David Schwartz, First Unitarian Church
and Beverly Unitarian Church

Rev. Dennis M. Oglesby, Jr.,
Transformation Community United
Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Ann L. Rosewall, Senior Minister,
First Congregational Church of
Evanston, UCC

Rev. Dr. Beth Brown, Pastor, Lincoln Park
Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. Darla Ann R. Kratzer, Pastor, Our
Lord's Lutheran Church

Rev. Dr. Lee Barker, President Emeritus,
Meadville Lombard Theological
School

Rev. Dr. Linda Eastwood, Affiliate Faculty,
McCormick Theological Seminary

Rev. Dr. Lucas Hergert, North Shore
Unitarian Church

Rev. Dr. Marilyn Pagán-Banks, A Just
Harvest / United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Marshall E. Hatch, Sr., Senior
Pastor, New Mount Pilgrim Church

Rev. Dr. Myron McCoy, First United
Methodist Church at the Chicago
Temple

Rev. Dr. Richard P. Ellerbrake, United
Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Richard W. Shelton, Retired United
Methodist Pastor

Rev. Dr. Rodney C. Walker, St. Matthew
UM Church

Rev. Dr. Terrill N. Murff, Chicago
Metropolitan Association of the
Illinois Conference of the United
Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Vilius Rudra Dundzila, Peoples
Church of Chicago

Rev. Dr. Waltrina Middleton, Community
Renewal Society

Rev. Dr. William Sasso, Minister Emeritus,
Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship

Rev. Eileen Wiviott, Acting Senior Minister,
Unitarian Church of Evanston

Rev. Elizabeth A. Harding, AM, MDiv,
LCSW Affiliated Community
Minister, Second Unitarian Church of
Chicago

Rev. Emily Gage, Unity Temple Unitarian
Universalist Congregation

Rev. Emily McGinley, Urban Village Church

Rev. Erik Christensen, Lutheran School of
Theology at Chicago

Rev. Florence Caplow, Unitarian
Universalist Church of Urbana
Champaign

Rev. Fred Kinsey, Unity Lutheran Church,
Chicago

Rev. Hannah Kardon, Teaching Pastor,
Urban Village Church

Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia, Countryside
Church Unitarian Universalist

Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia, Unitarian
Universalist

Rev. Janet D Niemeyer, The Presbytery of
Chicago Presbyterian Church (USA)

Rev. Jason Lydon, Minister, Second
Unitarian Church of Chicago

Rev. John Bell, Wesley United Methodist
Church

Rev. Josh Ebener, Pastor, St. Andrew
Lutheran Church West Chicago

Rev. Julie Taylor, Meadville Lombard
Theological School

Rev. K E Mooney, Unitarian Universalist
Advocacy Network of IL
Rev. Kara Wagner Sherer, St. John's
Episcopal Church
Rev. Krista Paradiso, Pastor, United
Methodist Church
Rev. Laura Wilson Underwood, First United
Methodist Church of Morris
Rev. Leland Bond-Upson, Unitarian
Universalist Church of Elgin
Rev. Lindsey Long Joyce, United Church of
Rogers Park
Rev. Linny Hartzell, Pastor, Hope United
Methodist Church of Joliet
Rev. Mark Pedigo, Pilgrim Congregational
Church, Oak Park
Rev. Mark Winters, Pastor, First
Congregational United Church of
Christ Naperville
Rev. Megan Dean Tobola, Pastor, Good
Shepherd UMC
Rev. Melissa L. Earley, First United
Methodist Church of Arlington
Heights
Rev. Meredith L. Onion, First
Congregational Church of Western
Springs
Rev. Michael B. Crosby, First Mennonite
Church of Champaign-Urbana
Rev. Michelle Hughes, Associate
Conference Minister, Illinois
Conference United Church of Christ
Rev. Pam Rumancik, Minister, Unitarian
Church of Hinsdale
Rev. Pamela Stallings, Associate Pastor to
Children, Covenant UCC
Rev. Rachel Birkhahn-Rommelfanger,
Clergy, Northern Illinois Conference
of the United Methodist Church
Rev. Richard Mosley, Jr., Pastor, Clair
Christian United Methodist Church
Rev. Robbie Craig, New Faith Baptist

Church
Rev. Ryan Wallace, Associate Pastor for
Faith Formation, First Presbyterian
Church of Libertyville
Rev. Sarah Richards, Carbondale Unitarian
Fellowship
Rev. Scott Aaseng, Unitarian Universalist
Advocacy Network of Illinois
Rev. Scott Onque, St Luke Missionary
Baptist Church
Rev. Teresa Schwartz, First Unitarian
Church of Chicago
Rev. Thomas R. Gaulke, Gethsemane
Lutheran Church of Cicero
Rev. Vilius Rudra Dundzila, Interim Pastor,
Wellington Avenue UCC
Salman Azam, Downtown Islamic Center
Sr. Marianne Supan, OP, Roman Catholic
Sr. Kathleen Desautels, SP, Sisters of
Providence
Sr. Marcelline Koch, OP, Springfield
Dominican Sisters, Office of Justice