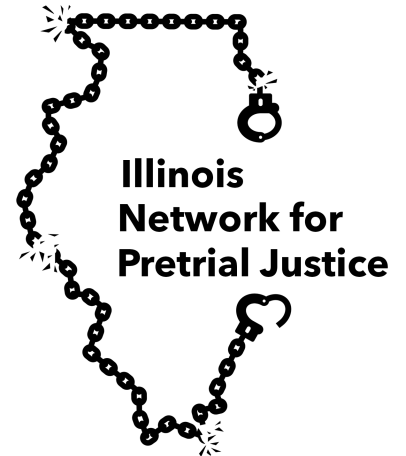


February 12, 2021

The Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor of Illinois
100 W. Randolph St.
Chicago, IL 60601
Sent via email to [REDACTED]



RE: Support for the Pretrial Fairness Act (as included in HB 3653 SFA 2)

Dear Governor Pritzker,

The Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice writes to thank you for your courageous leadership on the issue of ending money bond in Illinois. The Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice is a diverse group of more than 30 faith-based, community organizing, and policy groups from across the state who work together to reduce pretrial incarceration in Illinois and more broadly, to end mass incarceration and address the root causes of socio-economic and racial inequity in our legal system.

Your unwavering support for ending money bond undoubtedly played an important role in the legislature's recent passage of the historic Pretrial Fairness Act. Now that this landmark legislation has arrived on your desk, we urge you to sign it into law and officially make Illinois the first state in the country to completely abolish money bond, a reform your administration named as one of its top priorities just over one year ago.

The use of money bond creates a two-tiered justice system where only those with wealth are granted their constitutional presumption of innocence. Every year, over 250,000 Illinoisans languish in jail pretrial while they are legally presumed innocent. Countless numbers of your constituents have lost their housing, jobs, and even custody of their children all because they could not afford to buy their freedom.

The archaic system of money bond and our overreliance on pretrial incarceration destabilizes people's lives and our communities, making us all less safe—but you have the opportunity to change that. **By signing the Pretrial Fairness Act into law, you can eradicate one of the key drivers of mass incarceration and honor the dignity of so many people whose lives have been devastated by pretrial jailing.**

We thank you and look forward to your continued leadership in making our criminal legal system fairer for all Illinoisans. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at info@endmoneybond.org [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

The Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice:

ACLU of Champaign County
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Chicago
Black Justice Project
Center for Empowerment and Justice
Champaign County Bailout Coalition
Change Peoria
Chicago Democratic Socialists of America
Clergy for a New Drug Policy
The Coalition to End Money Bond
 A Just Harvest
 ACLU of Illinois
 Believers Bail Out
 Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts
 Chicago Community Bond Fund
 Community Renewal Society
 Illinois Justice Project
 Justice and Witness Ministry of Chicago Metropolitan Association – Illinois Conference
 United Church of Christ
 Nehemiah Trinity Rising
 The Next Movement at Trinity United Church of Christ
 The People’s Lobby
 Shriver Center on Poverty Law
 Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation (SOUL)
 Workers Center for Racial Justice
Coalition to Reduce Recidivism in Lake County
Decarcerate BloNo
Faith Coalition for the Common Good
Illinois NOW (National Organization for Women)
Illinois Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism (RAC-IL)
Masjid Al-Taqwa
Peoria ACLU
Peoria NAACP
Rockford Urban Ministries
Students for Sensible Drug Policy - IL
United Congregations of MetroEast
Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois
Unitarian Universalist Prison Ministry of Illinois