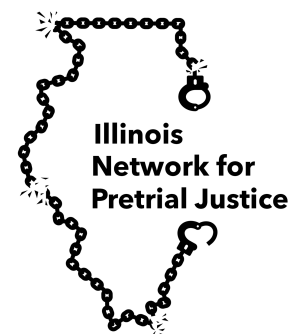


November 15, 2022

Re: Support for SAFE-T Act Trailer Bill Measures in HB5537



Dear members of Illinois' 102nd General Assembly,

As trailer bill negotiations are underway for the Pretrial Fairness provisions of the SAFE-T Act, we, the undersigned organizations representing thousands of Illinois residents, are writing to express our strong support for legislative proposals that stay true to the promise of this historic racial justice legislation. We believe that the changes included in HB5537 will help Illinois safely and effectively implement the Pretrial Fairness Act, and must be included in any SAFE-T Act trailer bill passed by the legislature.

Since the Pretrial Fairness Act was passed in January 2021, stakeholders from every branch of government have been working together under the leadership of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts to ensure that counties across Illinois have the guidance and resources they need to effectively make this transition. The final adopted trailer bill should be informed by those efforts and help address concerns so that the law is successfully implemented in counties across our state. As the effective date of the Pretrial Fairness Act quickly approaches in just a few short months, it is critical that legislators adopt proposed language that clarifies and makes consistent the law's standards for detaining people for safety reasons,, places clear legal limits on pretrial incarceration by retaining a detention eligibility net, codifies the timelines for hearings and creates a clear process for the state to transition out of money bond.

The Pretrial Fairness Act is one of the most comprehensive pieces of pretrial justice reform this nation has seen, and it has positioned Illinois as a leader in efforts to meaningfully address the racial and economic injustice that wealth-based jailing has inflicted on marginalized communities for decades. The Illinois legislature passed this historic law in response to the largest civil rights protests in our nation's history which took place in the summer of 2020 following the police murders of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd. The Pretrial Fairness Act makes sure that low-income people are not trapped in a cycle of poverty and jail time in a criminal justice system that violates the basic constitutional and human rights of our community's most vulnerable people.

SB4228, drafted by the Illinois State's Attorneys Association, would not safely and effectively implement the Pretrial Fairness Act. While some members of the State's Attorneys Association have expressed a willingness to end money bond, SB4228 makes clear that they are only willing to do so if it increases their ability to incarcerate more Illinoisians indefinitely while they await trial. If adopted, their proposal would increase pretrial jailing throughout our state and exacerbate the egregious racial disparities that already exist in Illinois jails. [Unnecessary pretrial incarceration of those who are presumed innocent leads to the disruption of family, neighborhood, employment, and community ties.](#) Such disruptions have actually been found to

increase the risk of recidivism and undermine community safety. SB4228 would result in a pretrial legal system far more unfair than the one currently in place, and would take our state backwards rather than forward.

Any adopted trailer bill must result in the smooth, safe, and sustainable transition away from the money bond system towards a justice system that prioritizes community safety while protecting people's rights. This is what our state deserves and has patiently awaited for decades.

Thank you in advance for following through on your promise to our communities. We will stand by you as our state forges ahead leading the nation into more fair and just pretrial legal systems.

Sincerely,

The Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice and more than 130 organizations in support of the Pretrial Fairness Act:

#LetUsBreathe Collective

A Way Inn	Champaign-Urbana Democratic Socialists of America
Access Living	Champaign-Urbana Showing Up for Racial Justice (CU-SURJ)
ACLU - Springfield	Change Peoria
ACLU of Illinois	Channing-Murray Foundation
Alliance for Safety and Justice	Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Chicago	Chicago Community Bond Fund
Believers Bail Out	Chicago Council of Lawyers
Black Justice Project	Chicago Democratic Socialists of America
Black Light Fellowship	Chicago Jobs Council
Black Lives Matter Blono	Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights
Black Lives Matter SPI	Chicago Recovery Alliance
Blackroots Alliance	Chicago Teachers Union
Bloomington-Normal Chapter of Democratic Socialists of America	Chicago Torture Justice Center
BPI Chicago	Chicago United for Equity
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council	Chicago Urban League
Cabrini Green Legal Aid	Chicago Votes
CAIR-Chicago	Circles & Ciphers
Cannabis Equity IL Coalition	Clergy for a New Drug Policy
Carbondale Spring	Coalition to Reduce Recidivism
Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center	Communities United
Champaign County ACLU	Concerned Citizens of Precinct 12
Champaign County Bailout Coalition	Covenant United Church of Christ
Champaign Urbana immigration Forum	
Champaign-Urbana Courtwatch	

Criminal Justice Task Force at First Unitarian Church of Chicago	National Alliance on Mental Illness of Illinois (NAMI IL)
Elliott Counseling Group	National Lawyers Guild Chicago
Equity And Transformation	National Rainbow PUSH Coalition
Faith Coalition for the Common Good	New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia
Faith in Place Action Fund	New True Vine Baptist Church
First Followers	Nikkei Uprising
First United Methodist Church, Oak Park	Northside Transformative Law Center
Gamaliel Network	ONE Northside
Gamaliel of Illinois and Iowa (GOII)	Parole Illinois
Growing Home, Inc.	Party for Socialism and Liberation Champaign-Urbana
HANA Center	People's Action
Human Opposition Movement for Equality	Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation
Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition	Pretrial Justice Institute
Illinois Alliance for Reentry & Justice	Quad Cities Democratic Socialists of America
Illinois National Organization for Women (NOW)	Quad Cities Interfaith
Illinois Prison Project	Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-IL)
Illinois Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-IL)	Resistor Sisterhood
Inner-City Muslim Action Network	Restore Justice
Jewish Council on Urban Affairs	Revolution Workshop
John Howard Association of Illinois	Rights and Restoration Law Group
Jolt Foundation	Rockford Urban Ministries
Lake County Coalition to Reduce Recidivism	Sanctuary of the People, UIUC
Law Enforcement Action Partnership	SEIU Healthcare Illinois
Lawndale Christian Legal Center	She Votes Illinois
Legal Council for Health Justice	Showing Up for Racial Justice - Chicago
Liberation Library	Silver Law Office PC
Live Free Chicago	Smart Decarceration Project
Live Free Illinois	St Francis Xavier Metro-East Small Faith Community
Loevy & Loevy Attorneys at Law	Students for Sensible Drug Policy
Mandel Legal Aid Clinic of the University of Chicago Law School	The Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression
Masjid Al-Taqwa	The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism in Lake County
MediaJustice	The Fountain
Mental Health America of Illinois	The Graduate Employees' Organization at UIUC, AFT/IFT Local 6300
Mental Health Summit	The Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition
Metropolitan Tenants Organization	The Illinois Prisoner Rights Coalition
Midwest Immigration Bond Fund	The People's Lobby
Mutual Ground, Inc.	
NAMI Barrington Area	
NAMI South Suburbs of Chicago	

Transformative Justice Law Project of
Illinois
Trinity United Church of Christ
Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of
IL
Unitarian Universalist Prison Ministry of
Illinois
United Congregations of the Metro East
United Working Families
Uptown People's Law Center
Wayman AME Church
West Suburban IL DSA
Westside Justice Center
WIN Recovery
Women's Justice Institute (WJI)
Women's March Rockford
YWCA Elgin
YWCA McLean County
YWCA of the University of Illinois