

CASH BAIL REFORM AND 5 REASONS TO SUPPORT IT

Money bail is one of the most corrupt and broken parts of the justice system. It lets the size of a person's wallet determine whether a person - who has been accused, but not convicted of a crime - can return home or stay locked up in jail while awaiting their day in court. When a person can't pay bail, they risk loss of employment, family, and home. Ending mass incarceration in Mississippi begins with bail reform.

Here are 5 reasons why you should support cash bail reform...



1. WEALTH-BASED DETENTION DENIES MOST PEOPLE A FAIR CHANCE AT JUSTICE.

14 out of every 25 (56%) individuals sitting behind bars have not been convicted of a crime.* The money bail system unfairly punishes people who don't have money, simply because they don't have money.

2. DO THE MATH! BAIL REFORM SAVES TAXPAYER DOLLARS.

The average minimum jail cost per inmate is \$50/day. That could total \$18,250 per year per detainee. Counties end up wasting precious taxpayer dollars to jail someone who is awaiting trial.

3. PRETRIAL DETENTION INCREASES THE POSSIBILITY OF CONVICTION AND LONGER SENTENCING.

Pretrial detention, or the jailing of people awaiting trial, increases the possibility of conviction and longer sentences because defendants are more likely to take plea deals and receive prison sentences.

4. THE BAIL BOND INDUSTRY PROFITS OFF THE BACKS OF THE PEOPLE TOO POOR TO PAY FOR THEIR FREEDOM.

These "bail sharks" like the status quo, which lets them reap profits off the backs of people who have no other option but to sign predatory financial contracts to get their loved ones out of jail. They trap people in debt through non-refundable fees and installment plans with high interest rates.

5. THE CASH BAIL SYSTEM TARGETS BLACK PEOPLE AND PEOPLE OF COLOR.

Money bail unfairly punishes people of low and moderate income, which disproportionately affects Black people and other people of color. Black people are more likely than white people to remain in jail after an arrest, even where they are charged with the same offense and have a similar history.

