

Testimonials **First Hand Experience with Bail Reform**

While proponents of bail reform go around the country touting its success, the reality tells a different story. In fact, many decision makers and stakeholders have come out publicly against bail reform in the hopes of helping counties avoid the mistakes of those that tried before them. Here are just a few of the comments made from groups and individuals from around the country:



“As you may know, New Jersey passed and has implemented a bail reform policy similar to California’s SBI 0 which you are considering. I supported the legislation when presented to our Assembly and advocated for its passage. The law went into effect this past January and it has been an absolute disaster. The public safety needs of citizens in New Jersey has suffered far greater than could have been imagined. The costs to the state have increased exponentially and, even worse, the constitutional rights of many of the accused are being infringed.”

Letter to Speaker of the California Assembly

Bob Andrzejczak

Assemblyman, First Legislative District, New Jersey

July 2017



“We, the undersigned organizations, are united in the belief that: we do not have to add dangerousness to New York’s bail statute to reduce our pretrial detention population; the use of risk assessment instruments to predict dangerousness will further exacerbate racial bias in our criminal justice system; and the use of these instruments will likely lead to increases in pretrial detention across the state.”

Letter from Community & Advocacy Groups to Governor Cuomo

November 2017



“No conclusive evidence has been presented showing that the risk assessment methods proposed by AB136 are effective in determining when it may or may not be appropriate to release a criminal defendant without requiring bail.”

Letter to the Speaker of the Nevada House of Representative

Governor Brian Sandoval

Nevada

May 2017



“In 2013 our county shifted towards an unsecured bond system with the support of our pretrial services agency. The program did not work as intended. We did not save budget dollars. The system suffers from a lack of accountability. The District Attorney’s office originally had significant objections and concerns for public safety due to the bail reform initiative and those objections and concerns persist. The use of financial bail, including the use of commercial sureties, has been reintroduced into the system. We believe accountability has improved and as a system, we are functioning better.”

Letter to Maryland Judicial Committee
Libby Szabo, County Commissioner, Jefferson County Colorado
Peter Weir, District Attorney, First Judicial District, Colorado
Jeff Shrader, Sheriff, Jefferson County Colorado
December 2016



“I am writing on behalf of the New Jersey State Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) to express its concerns with the bail reform law in New Jersey that took effect in January of this year. It is a proven fact that since its enactment law enforcement has encountered a more difficult time in attempting to keep New Jersey’s communities safe. Since the law’s enactment, law enforcement has been overwhelmed by the release of suspects and in many cases their often prompt re-arrests.”

Letter to the Office of the Attorney General of New Jersey
James E. Ford
New Jersey Fraternal Order of Police
April 2017



“[Bail Reform] would heighten the risk to public safety. Those arrested for selling drugs, committing identity theft, vandalizing homes and businesses, stealing huge sums of money, or burglarizing dozens of businesses would all presumptively be granted pretrial release – without having to appear before a judge, post bail or submit to any conditions upon release. These bills also inexplicably exclude residential burglary from the list of crimes for which arrestees are not to be considered for release without judicial authorization.”

Letter to California Assemblyman Rob Bonta regarding SB10/AB49
Honorable Steve White
President
Alliance of CA Judges
May 2017

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