REFORMING OHIO’S FAILING "MONEY BAIL" SYSTEM

WHY IT MATTERS

Ohio’s cash bail system makes Ohio a more dangerous place to live.

Under the current system, accused murderers, child rapists, and armed robbers are arrested and released into our communities because they have access to money, while citizens accused of jaywalking, violating dress-codes, or failing to pay traffic tickets sit in jail for days, weeks, or even months because they have little or no access to cash.

Ohio’s cash bail system is an arbitrary approach that is inherently prejudiced against poorer defendants and does little to protect communities from truly dangerous defendants.

Ohio’s cash bail system is inefficient, expensive, and unfair. It has proven to be no guarantee to thwarting repeat offenders.

83% of OHIOANS support ending Ohio’s CASH BAIL only SYSTEM

FIXING THE SYSTEM | WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

1. LEVERAGE PROVEN TOOLS
   Amend Ohio law to provide judges with proven tools to make better-informed pretrial detention and release decisions.

2. KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE
   Give judges greater flexibility and resources to hold defendants accountable and to deny pretrial release when the accused poses significant risks to the community.

3. BETTER RESULTS FOR LESS MONEY
   Save taxpayer dollars by creating a system where more defendants are safely released before trial, more defendants appear for trial, and less crime is committed by those awaiting trial.

DETERMINING FACTORS FOR CASH BAIL
Judge-assessed risk factors
1. What is the defendant’s criminal history?
2. What has the defendant been charged with?
3. Has the defendant missed prior court dates?

ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS TO CASH BAIL

ELECTRONIC MONITORING
MANDATORY COUNSELING
ROUTINE CHECK-INS

Learn more at: BUCKEYEINSTITUTE.ORG

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Markcus Brown spent nine days in jail after being arrested for violating the Dayton Regional Transit Authority’s (RTA) dress code. RTA rules require patrons to dress and act in a certain way. Violating those rules amounts to trespassing. After his arrest, Brown’s bail was set at $150, which Brown and his family could not afford. Brown sat in jail until his mother secured a car title loan nine days later. He pleaded guilty and was assessed $111 in court costs and banned from RTA buses.

Released on Bond, Rape Suspect Murders 10-Year-Old Victim & Family

Charged with raping his ex-girlfriend’s 10-year-old daughter, Robert Seman allegedly murdered his victim and her grandparents by setting their home on fire. Prosecutors had indicted Seman for rape and sexually abusing the little girl for four years. Despite the serious charges, Seman posted his $200,000 bail and was released under a court order requiring him to wear an ankle monitor and placing him under house arrest. Just hours before the start of Mr. Seman’s trial, the home of the girl’s grandparents went up in flames, killing the grandparents and the 10-year-old victim who were scheduled to testify.

Columbus Man Released on Bail Commits Armed Burglary

Victor N. Milton, a 20-year-old from the Columbus area, was in police custody just a week before he burglarized three people at gunpoint. Milton had been indicted for breaking and entering into 12 homes in Franklin County and stealing more than $42,000 of property, but was released into the community after posting bail. A week later, Milton and two accomplices burglarized an apartment in the university district, robbing three residents at gunpoint.