

Senate Judiciary Committee
House Bill 2755
PROPONENT
March 20, 2024

Chairwoman Warren and dMembers of the Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing to express my perspective on the current bail system and propose solutions that balance the rights of defendants with the need for public safety.

- **Right to Bail and Victim Protection:**

I firmly believe that all defendants deserve the opportunity to prepare their case while on release. However, I also recognize the importance of protecting victims from potential harm. Balancing these two objectives is crucial.

- **Bond Premium**

While I support the use of reasonable bond premiums, I understand that 10% requirement may be a hardship for certain individuals. Judges, considering the severity of the offense and flight risk, already set bail based on these factors. If they intended for immediate release with minimal financial burdgen, the bond would likely be set accordingly.

- **Payment Options and Financial Responsibility:**

I understand that some families may struggle to pay the full bail amount upfront. Therefore, allowing a split payment option with a promissory note for the remaining balance would be a practical solution. However, I advocate for a mandatory financial investment from both defendants or their families. This "skin in the game" serves as a deterrent against potential additional violations, as individuals have a vested interest in adhering to release conditions. Without such an investment, there is less incentive to avoid breaking the law, knowing minimal financial repercussions follow.

- **Felons in the Bail Bond Industry:**

I strongly oppose allowing individuals with felony convictions to work in the bail bond industry. Their access to sensitive information regarding victims, defendants, and their families could pose a significant risk of misuse and further harm.

Thank you for considering my views on the critical issues.

Sincerely,
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