



I SUPPORT SB 880 / HB 1390: **MARYLAND PRETRIAL REFORM ACT OF 2017**

Because of its continued reliance on commercial bond, which includes cash bail, property, and other forms of collateral, Marylanders of low risk and limited means languish in jail even as wealthier individuals who present a serious danger to public safety walk free. People who pose no threat to public safety yet are jailed because they cannot afford a commercial bond experience the loss of wages, jobs, and housing, while other important life matters, such as child care or child support payments, are put on hold. As a result, Maryland's current pretrial system fails to protect public safety, wastes state and local resources, and discriminates against Black and Brown people who are disproportionately poor and economically disadvantaged due to our nation's history of unequal opportunity and racism.

THE MARYLAND PRETRIAL REFORM ACT OF 2017 SEEKS TO

1. Reduce unnecessary arrests and detentions that disrupt and destabilize families and communities;
2. Replace discriminatory commercial bond with decision-making tools that are transparent, evidence-based, community-led, standardized, and free from racial, ethnic, and gender biases;
3. Limit pretrial detention to the small number of people who either pose a threat to public safety or are a serious flight risk;
4. Expand Maryland's reliance on community-based supports that aid people in making their court appearances and remaining law-abiding while their case is pending, and,
5. Ensure community oversight of pretrial release decisions through ongoing data collection, evaluation, and transparency that is led by individuals and organizations that are representative of and accountable to those most directly impacted by discriminatory pretrial practices.

I support The Maryland Pretrial Reform Act of 2017!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Do you wish to be listed as a member of the Coalition for a Safe and Just Maryland? _____

****The Coalition for a Safe and Just Maryland** comprises community leaders, concerned voters, and experts committed to helping Maryland finally achieve systems of justice that truly keep communities safe and are free from racial bias and other forms of injustice**