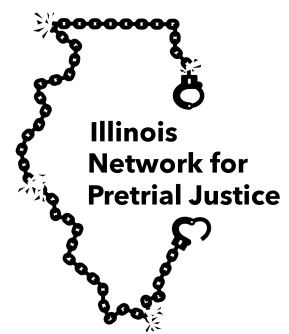


September xx, 2023



Dear Attorney General Raoul:

The undersigned faith, policy, advocacy, legal, and community organizations write to extend our deepest gratitude and enthusiastic congratulations following the Illinois Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Pretrial Fairness Act.

We want to thank you for your relentless defense of the rule of law and our Illinois Constitution in the face of meritless arguments and attacks. Our thanks as well to the tremendous work of your staff, in particular Deputy Solicitor General Alex Hemmer for his presentation and performance in oral arguments before the Supreme Court.

Those who resisted these reforms were steadfastly attached to a pretrial system that failed, one that was driven by financial access rather than fairness or safety. You remained resolute in your conviction, championing Illinois as a beacon of pretrial reform. Your tenacity in upholding the Pretrial Fairness Act amidst strong opposition is the cornerstone for Illinois marking September 18, 2023, as the day it pioneers a pretrial system devoid of financial bonds—a system that ensures safety and fairness.

Throughout Illinois, the Pretrial Fairness Act will enhance safety by reducing the number of individuals unjustly held pretrial due to financial constraints. This means fewer will be uprooted from their livelihoods, homes, religious affiliations, and community roles. This initiative not only bolsters Illinois' social fabric but also addresses the trauma of mass incarceration. The impact will be especially profound in Black communities where people have not been afforded the presumption of innocence. Transitioning to a system where pretrial decisions are rooted in evidence over economics heralds a fairer and safer era.

There will continue to be those who will inaccurately attribute community violence to these reforms. It's essential to recognize that these individuals may be more focused on their political aspirations than genuine community welfare and safety. Amidst these potential challenges, our united efforts are paramount, aiming not just to abolish financial bonds but also to minimize pretrial detentions in our state. This is the path to effective pretrial justice.

The Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice, backed by our 47 affiliate organizations and their numerous members statewide, is poised to champion this much-needed reform. We are prepared to defend the Pretrial Fairness Act across Illinois and urge you to stand firm against any potential regression. We look forward to continuing to partner with you to protect the right of all Illinoisans to live in truly safe communities. If you would like to meet with the Network or discuss anything further, please contact info@endmoneybond.org.