



ACT NOW! Don't let corporate interests undo justice reform!

Senate Bill 983, a pretrial reform bill proposed and supported by the bail bonds industry, has made it through the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, and is headed to the floor for a vote today.

The bail bonds industry has been working hard behind the scenes to protect their financial interests at the expense of public safety and pretrial justice. As advocates for survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence, we know that the pay-for-freedom cash bail system allows wealthy abusers to pay their way out of jail, further endangering the women who have been victimized, while poor people who are arrested on non-violent charges sit in jail because they can't afford to post even modest bail.

Black women are the fastest growing segment of the criminal justice population, and are also the least likely to be able to pay cash bail. They are also more likely to have unstable housing, and the responsibility of caring for children or families, situations which are exacerbated by both detention and increased pretrial supervision. Women, who are disproportionately arrested on low-level, non-violent charges related to poverty and homelessness, will be set up to fail through the proposed expansion of onerous conditions for pretrial release as called for in this bill.

SB983 would not just be bad on its own, but would undo progress that has already been made toward true pretrial reform. We ask you to call your Senators NOW and urge them to vote RED.

To learn more about Power Inside's justice work, contact Jessica Lewis at jlewis@powerinside.org