

END CASH BAIL

BAIL REFORM NOW

DEPRIVING PEOPLE OF THEIR
FREEDOM WITHOUT A
CONVICTION IS FUNDAMENTALLY
UNFAIR.

BROKEN SYSTEM

Bail supports a broken justice system.

Our legal system is built around the idea that people are innocent until proven guilty. However, the reality is that thousands of people in West Virginia spend days, weeks, and months in jail without ever having been found guilty of a crime. Instead they're in jail because they cannot afford to pay bail.

Bad for West Virginians

Bail creates a legal nightmare for families.

The cash bail system is designed to ensure that people who are charged with a crime do not flee. Instead it is often used punitively. Worse, it unfairly punishes poor and even middle-class people, even when they commit minor offenses. Meanwhile, wealthy criminal defendants are able to return to their lives, even if they are accused of heinous crimes.

Bail is fundamentally unfair.

Depriving people of their freedom without a conviction is fundamentally unfair. Beyond that, it can cost people their jobs, their families, homes, studies have shown it even makes it more likely that they'll lose their case. It's time to end the cash bail system. A new system is needed to ensure that we are not unnecessarily holding people who have not been convicted of a crime in jail.



COSTLY WEST VIRGINIA RESOURCES

Bail is costly for the state. Each year West Virginia pays over \$50 million to hold pre-trial detainees. Additionally, these detainees overcrowd jails, making it more dangerous for correctional officers. Overcrowding also makes it more likely that inmates will face other abuses and civil liberties violations, a liability for the state.