



Kentucky Advisory Committee Releases Report Encouraging Bail Reform and Reduced Use of Cash Bail

The Kentucky Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights will host a web conference to share its findings and recommendations regarding bail reform in Kentucky. The Committee will be joined by Shameka Parrish-Wright of The Bail Project and Public Advocate Damon Preston.

- When:** Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021, at 10:00 AM Eastern Time (ET)
- Who:** Kentucky Advisory Committee to U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
- Where:** <https://tinyurl.com/3jsufwfe>

The Committee's investigation examined how cash bail impacts the fair administration of justice and whether it operates in a manner that denies equal protection of the law to individuals on the basis of race or another protected class. The Committee also analyzed the effectiveness of the existing risk assessment system and whether it has decreased the use of cash bail in favor of pretrial release.

Kentucky holds too many nonviolent, low-risk offenders in county jails before their trials due to their inability to pay their money bail. The ability to pay bail is not an indicator of flight risk or threat to public safety yet there are severe consequences to pretrial detention, including loss of employment and home.

Among many recommendations, the Committee urges the Kentucky legislature to eliminate cash bail except in cases of a clear and identified danger to the community or an established flight risk. Additionally, the Committee recommends that a particular effort be given to ensuring that legal representation is available to criminal defendants at all court appearances to protect pretrial rights.