



PRESS RELEASE
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Web Conference to Release Report on Bail Reform in Kentucky Kentucky Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

On December 1, 2021, the Kentucky Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will host a web conference to share findings and recommendations documented in the Committee's recent report, "[Locked Up for Being Poor: The Need for Bail Reform in Kentucky.](#)"

"The Committee found that the state holds too many nonviolent, low-risk offenders in county jails before trial because they cannot afford money bail," said Chair Enid Trucios-Haynes. "The Committee encourages legislators to consider cost-saving reforms that decrease the pretrial population while still protecting public safety."

WHAT: Report on Bail Reform – Kentucky Advisory Committee

WHEN: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 from 10:00 am – 11:30 am Eastern Time (ET)

WHERE: <https://tinyurl.com/3jsufwfe>

The Kentucky Committee reports that the current unaffordable cash bail system disproportionately affects Black, Hispanic/Latinx, and low-income defendants in Kentucky, resulting in higher levels of pretrial detention. The Committee issued several findings, but most significantly found:

- Cash bail is regularly required for pretrial release and results in many low-risk defendants being detained pretrial
- Individuals with substance use disorders, behavioral health issues, and mental illness are often unable to afford cash bail
- Pretrial detention often results in the loss of employment and housing
- High level of judicial discretion in pretrial detention decisions and the lack of review structure allows greater potential for discriminatory decision-making
- Pretrial administrative release based on defendants' criminal history and current charges allows for discriminatory and unequal release practices

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 56 state and territory Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).