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Oregon Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Releases Report on Pretrial Release, Detention, and Bail Practices

The Oregon Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released a report following a series of web hearings to understand pretrial release, detention, and bail practices in the state. The Committee heard from law enforcement, the legal community, academics, advocacy organizations, and individuals directly impacted by bail practices.

In this report, the Committee received testimony from speakers in the following areas: data collection efforts; the use of risk assessment tools in determining an individual's liberty; the function of bail practices and its impact; and components within pretrial release. Through this testimony, the Committee identified eighteen findings, some of which include individuals face varying sentencing outcomes due to the different types of county pretrial release programs, the need for comprehensive and standardized data collection efforts, and the importance of and type of legal representation (private or public) that can make a difference in sentencing outcomes among other concerns.

The report also includes recommendations directed to the Commission asking for corrective actions from the U.S. Department of the Justice, U.S. Congress, Oregon Legislature, Oregon Governor, Oregon law enforcement agencies, and Oregon courts with a goal of helping address the Committee's concerns.

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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 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. For information about the Commission, please visit www.usccr.gov and follow us on Twitter and Facebook.