



The current system of money bond and pretrial detention **harms educational opportunities and outcomes for both young people and adults.**

- Pretrial incarceration leads to housing insecurity and homelessness: even just a few days can lead to loss of jobs and housing for a family, which directly impacts school-age children and young adults.
- Pretrial incarceration disrupts adult educational programs, threatening opportunities to obtain a high school diploma, GED, post-secondary education, or certification programs, making it harder to meet educational and career goals.
- Pretrial incarceration creates barriers to future jobs because it causes people to plead guilty just to get out of jail.
 - People with criminal convictions experience discrimination in the labor market due to both state policy and private employer practices.
 - All of these harms fall disproportionately on Black and Latinx communities in Illinois.

How will the Pretrial Fairness Act **improve educational prospects for Illinoisans?**

The Pretrial Fairness Act will end wealth-based pretrial incarceration, which lowers the chance an accused person will lose out on jobs or end up with a criminal conviction. The bill eliminates money bond, and ensures that no one will be incarcerated pretrial simply because they don't have money. Fewer people will plead guilty simply because they want to get out of jail, which could mean fewer criminal convictions and employment barriers. The Pretrial Fairness Act also increases the supportive services available to people accused of crimes

When people can stay in their communities while their legal case is pending, they remain a part of their family's lives: they can take their children to and from school and stay committed to their personal educational goals, resulting in better job prospects.

If governments paid less to incarcerate people pretrial, and families did not have to pay bond to free their loved ones, **where could that money go?**

Rather than paying an average of **\$38,268 per person per year** to incarcerate people who are awaiting trial, our local governments could spend those funds on our schools, after-school programs, job training, community-based mental health services, and higher education.