

# HOW DOES THE MONEY BAIL SYSTEM HARM HOUSING ACCESS AND STABILITY?



## The current system of money bond and pretrial detention **destabilizes housing.**

- Pretrial incarceration leads to **housing insecurity and homelessness**: even just a few days in jail can lead to loss of jobs and income, putting entire households at risk of eviction.
- People who are jailed for 3 days or more pretrial are **40% more likely to report housing instability in the year after they are jailed.**
- Lengthier periods of pretrial incarceration lead to **loss of public benefits** such as housing assistance.
- People who are incarcerated awaiting trial are more likely to accept a plea deal in order to be released for charges that they might otherwise not be convicted of, increasing conviction rates. People with criminal convictions **face numerous legal barriers to housing access**, whether market-rate or through affordable housing programs.
  - Housing restrictions can result in family separation.
- Families are currently forced to spend thousands of dollars paying bond to purchase the freedom of their loved ones, **which reduces money available for other necessities like rent and mortgage payments.**

## How will the Pretrial Fairness Act **increase housing access and stability?**

**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, fewer families will lose their housing as a result of inability to pay rent or meet other requirements while incarcerated.

## 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 rental assistance, down payment and foreclosure prevention assistance, and homelessness prevention, which is shown to **reduce risk of rearrest.**