



COOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
3026 South California Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60608

**Testimony Submitted to Joint Hearing of
Criminal Law Committee & Special Committee on Public Safety
Subject Matter Hearing on Bail Reform & Police Reform
October 20, 2020, 1:00 PM**

Submitted on Behalf of Cook County Sheriff's Office
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In 2016, Thomas J. Dart became the first sheriff in the nation to call for the end of cash bail, which too often fails to ensure public safety and unjustly penalizes those too poor to afford to buy their release. Since then, reforms have been made to reduce the burden of bail and to assess the risk that each defendant poses if released to the community. As a result of the changes the jail population has dropped substantially. Sheriff Dart welcomes the opportunity to contribute his insight into this important conversation about ending cash bail and removing poverty as a barrier to pre-trial release.

For additional information on the ineffectiveness of cash bail:

Center for American Progress, [What You Need to Know About Ending Cash Bail](#)

Fact sheet about the problems with cash bail; notes that bail reform in New Jersey and Washington, DC did not reduce court appearance rates or increase rearrests

Harvard Law School Criminal Justice Policy Program, [Bail Reform: A Guide for State and Local Policy Makers](#)

A comprehensive guide that outlines the problems with cash bail, provides detailed recommendations for reform including eliminating cash bail and optimizing pretrial services, and describes case studies from jurisdictions that have implemented reforms