

ELIMINATE CASH BAIL FOR LOW LEVEL MISDEMEANORS (HB 210) May 10, 2021

To All Participants in the Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation:

As Quakers, we promote criminal justice reform led by the Quaker testimonies of Peace and Equality and in support of our FCNCL minute on anti-racism.

North Carolina HB210 eliminates cash bail for Class 2 and 3 misdemeanors (larceny, shoplifting, trespassing, no violent offences) unless a risk to themselves or destroyed property (recommendation from Governor's Task Force). Current cash bail laws for low level crimes seriously impact people without ability to pay who can be held for 60 days, potentially losing their jobs, custody of their children, etc. HB 210 has been assigned to the House Rules Committee.

ACTION REQUESTED: Please contact the legislators shown below **prior to May 14, to ask them to hear this bill and vote to move it out of committee.**

Email or call Speaker Tim Moore (Tim.Moore@ncleg.gov; Phone: 919-733-3451 or 704-739-1221) prior to May 14 and ask him to send this bill to the Judiciary Committee.

Email or call House Rules Committee Chair Destin Hall (Destin.Hall@ncleg.gov; Phone: 919-733-5931) and ask him to have the bill heard by committee.

- The Governor's Task Force on Racial Equity in the Criminal Justice System recommends elimination of cash bail for low level misdemeanors (<https://ncdoj.gov/north-carolina-task-force-for-racial-equity-in-criminal-justice-releases-final-report/>).
- See **FCNCL Fact Sheet: [Eliminate Cash Bail for Low Level Misdemeanors](#)**.
- Even short pretrial jail stays in jail pretrial can have destabilizing effects on an individual's employment, health, and recidivism (*Christopher T. Lowkenkamp, et al., The Hidden Costs of Pretrial Detention (2013)*, <https://university.pretrial.org/HigherLogic/System/DownloadDocumentFile.ashx?DocumentFileKey=61863907-cf0d-3c0c-55a2-b8ee73f86829&forceDialog=0>; *Paul Heaton, et al., The Downstream Consequences of Misdemeanor Pretrial Detention, 69 Stanford Law Review 711,717–19, 737 (2017)*, <https://www.stanfordlawreview.org/print/article/the-downstream-consequences-of-misdemeanor-pretrial-detention/>).

→ **Letters to the editor:** Consider penning a letter to the editor to the [Raleigh News and Observer](#))