

Marin, Carolina

From: Rep. Callahan, Patrick <Patrick.Callahan@cga.ct.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 1:37 PM
To: Rules Committee
Subject: Changes to Court issued bonds- written testimony

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Dear Members of the Rules Committee.

I am concerned with the changes being proposed by the rules committee in regards to posting bonds in the Superior Court Clerk's office. As it stands today, the clerk's office may accept 10% of a bond up to the amount of \$20,000. I understand the policy being proposed would raise that amount to \$50,000 and lower the portion accepted by the clerk's office to 7%.

There are numerous issues with this policy.

When a defendant fails to appear, either a BCL can be issued, or a Failure to Appear (FTA) ordered.

If a defendant uses a bondsman for a surety bond, that bondsman is responsible for presenting the defendant, or the bond money to the Court within 180 days. With court issued bonds, a PRAWN warrant is issued, however there is no obligation to the court to assure the defendant is arrested and presented within a certain time limit and there is NO effort to collect the remainder of the bond.

Since changing the practice book as stated above, the pre-trial population in CT has INCREASED. I believe that increasing the amount to \$50,000, with 7% only required to be paid, it would have the same unintended consequences.

In addition, I believe these changes should be presented to the Judiciary Committee for consideration, Public Hearing, debate, and vote of the full legislature and Senate as these changes have the potential to have a profound effect on public safety in Connecticut.

Rep. Patrick Callahan
CT 108