

Marin, Carolina

From: Liza Davis Bail Bonds <lizadavisbailbonds@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 3, 2023 11:05 PM
To: Rules Committee
Cc: Liza Davis Bail Bonds
Subject: Liza Davis Testimony

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Testimony of Liza Davis

Good Morning Your Honors,

My name is Liza Davis, and for 16 years I have been a Professional Surety Bail Bond Agent as well as a Bail Enforcement Agent in CT.

In the annual meeting of Judges in 2019 the changes made to the Practice Book allowed for an automatic reduction of all bonds \$20,000 or less by 90% if posted in full as cash. This has virtually cut the amount of bonds posted by surety in half.

Professional Surety Bail Agents aim to recover those who fail to appear and return them to the court at a rate far better than all other forms of pretrial release. This is important for so many reasons including justice for victims and community safety. While some jurisdictions throughout the country are fighting to eliminate the most effective form of pretrial release, these same jurisdictions are experiencing violence and higher rates of property crime. There are now jurisdictions rolling back their bail reforms in effort to combat this.

We have studied the inmate population through numerous state run websites as well as information obtained through FOIA requests. The numbers do not lie. Comparing the numbers since inception of the automatic 90% cash discount on January 1, 2020 there are 17% more non-white defendants incarcerated in Connecticut. The rate of pretrial incarceration has gone from 27% to 37%. The average bond size of those locked up and those released on Surety has nearly doubled. All this while the overall prison population has dropped 19.4%. We are going the wrong way.

Furthering this discount to 93% would be disastrous. It will eliminate approximately 1000 jobs of Bail professionals. This goes against the CGS 54-64a "...but in no event shall a judge prohibit a bond from being posted by surety."

The practice of undercutting prices is illegal for bail bondsmen. This is undercutting. Allowing the government to collect less for the same product as the public sector should not be on the agenda. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,

Liza Davis

Professional Surety Bail Bond Agent