
From: Ashley White <ashleyw@bailproject.org>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 4:18 PM
To: House & Governmental Affairs
Subject: Concerns about Jail Populations Inflating Redistricting Measures

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Hello,

My name is Ashley White. I serve my community in different capacities: as a Bail Disruptor with The Bail Project, a national non-profit dedicated to ending cash bail, and a member of the EBR Parish Prison Reform Coalition. In both capacities, I engage systems that exploit communities via mass incarceration.

My concerns lie with how traditional redistricting processes consider those who are currently incarcerated. Especially those pre-trial and siphoned to rural parish jails and detention centers. It is my understanding that those who are held in correction facilities are counted as citizens within that parish but do not receive the political and economic benefits of true citizens. Additionally, how are these incarcerated individuals consulted during the public hearing processes? These rural parishes continue to pad their budget through carceral systems and make incarceration a primary industry. Those that are detained pretrial should be considered members of their home parish as they are likely to return to those communities and truly need the sociopolitical support.

Ultimately, these concerns are rooted in the fact that these political processes are remnants of chattel slavery and continue to disenfranchise those trapped by the criminal legal system. I ask this commission to reconsider this status quo and explore opportunities to truly integrate all those that are impacted.

Thank you,

Ashley

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THE BAIL PROJECT

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