STOP SACRAMENTO’S ATTACK ON YOUR RIGHT TO BAIL

In 2018, Sacramento politicians passed SB 10 (Hertzberg), eliminating the right of people accused of a crime to have a choice in securing their release through bail. Californians have the chance to stop this attack on our civil rights by voting NO on a ballot initiative this November.

Bail is a fundamental civil right, with protections in the U.S. Bill of Rights, but this initiative replaces it with computer algorithms and more costly government bureaucracy. Here are the facts on why you should vote NO on this initiative.

PUTS PUBLIC SAFETY AT RISK

This initiative puts more even burdens on our already overburdened police and sheriff’s departments, making them responsible for ensuring defendants appear in court. Without bail, many defendants who don’t show up for court or leave their jurisdiction will remain on the streets, endangering communities and depriving crime victims of justice. Businesses across the state have seen increased shoplifting, thefts and criminal activity since California recategorized certain felonies as misdemeanors and made more convicted criminals eligible for probation, and this initiative will only make the situation worse.

COSTS TAXPAYERS HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS EACH YEAR

According to a state budget analysis, this measure would cost California taxpayers $200 million per year to build and administer the new government bureaucracy to replace bail (CALMatters – 8/16/18). That could lead to higher taxes or cuts to vital public services, as state and local governments are forced to find money to pay for the new costs this initiative creates. New Jersey, a state with fewer people than Los Angeles County, spent more than $125 million of taxpayer dollars during the first year it implemented a similar version of bail reform. The program is projected to cost New Jersey taxpayers nearly $90 million per year going forward.

ELIMINATES AN ENTIRE INDUSTRY

This initiative is Sacramento politicians’ latest attempt to drive jobs and businesses out of the state and will eliminate an entire industry. More than three thousand registered bail agents—including many small business owners—and their employees will be out of work if this initiative passes.

THREATENS OUR CIVIL RIGHTS

This initiative replaces the role of judges with computer algorithms to determine who does and who doesn’t get released before trial. Even tech leaders like Google, Facebook and Amazon have come out against the use of algorithms to make determinations on risk assessment because they lead to more biased outcomes for poor and minority defendants. Algorithms might work for recommending songs, movies and other consumer interests but are biased and flawed when it comes to justice, bank loans and other sensitive and personal matters.

JOIN US TO DEFEAT THIS INITIATIVE AND STOP SB 10

This November, vote NO on this initiative to protect our civil rights and stop SB 10. Join Californians for Safer Communities and add your voice to the growing list of government officials, business, law enforcement, victim advocates and social justice leaders fighting to protect Californians and stop this disaster from becoming law.

Sign-Up Online at www.CaliforniansForSaferCommunities.com