

# BEYOND THE BARS

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSIGHTS



## MEET OUR VISIONARY:

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## UNSHACKLING INJUSTICE: THE URGENT NEED TO REFORM CASH BAIL

In the realm of criminal justice, the issue of cash bail has long been a subject of intense debate and scrutiny. From my perspective as a former Prison Health Services Administrator and someone deeply entrenched in the criminal justice system, I can attest to the fact that the cash bail system is inherently stacked against the poor and perpetuates a cycle of inequality. The recent editorial published by the Sun Sentinel on September 8, 2023, highlights this critical issue.

The cash bail system essentially means that individuals who are arrested must pay a specific amount of money to secure their release from pretrial detention. Unfortunately, this system disproportionately affects low-income individuals who often cannot afford the bail amount, resulting in their extended incarceration. This creates a myriad of problems, including overcrowded jails and the potential for individuals to lose their jobs and connections to their families, further destabilizing their lives.

Furthermore, it's important to recognize that the cash bail system does not necessarily correlate with public safety. It should not be the determinant of whether someone is released before trial. As someone who has seen the inner workings of our correctional facilities, I firmly believe in the need for reform in this area. We should be exploring alternatives to cash bail, such as risk assessments, which can better evaluate whether an individual poses a flight risk or a danger to society. Only by addressing the deep-seated issues within our criminal justice system, like cash bail, can we hope to create a more equitable and just society for all.

In conclusion, the editorial by the Sun Sentinel rightly sheds light on the glaring inequalities perpetuated by the cash bail system. As an expert in the field, I firmly support the call for reform in this area. It is imperative that we strive for a criminal justice system that is fair, impartial, and focused on rehabilitation rather than perpetuating a cycle of disadvantage, especially for those less fortunate in our society. It's time to reevaluate our approach to pretrial detention and seek solutions that prioritize justice and fairness.