

HB22-1067: Prompt Bond Hearings

[Gonzales-Gutierrez and Woodrow](#)

Mr. Chair Weissman, Vice Chair Tipper, and members of the House Judiciary committee, thank you for reading this testimony today. My name is Krista Spurgin and I'm the executive director for Stand for Children Colorado; Stand is an advocacy organization focused on ensuring all students receive a high quality, relevant education. To fulfill our mission, we work with parents and community members to speak up and demand excellent schools and communities for their children.

We're here today to urge your support of HB 22-1067: Ensuring Prompt Bond Hearings. It's rare that we're able to address such a significant civil rights issue here in the state legislature; it's believed that over half a million citizens, or nearly 2/3rds of the jail population in the entire United States, sits in jail because they can't pay a bond that averages out to about \$10,000 and is non-refundable. It's nearly impossible to calculate the social cost that this inequitable system perpetuates; most of these prisoners are black, indigenous people of color and particularly women of limited financial means. It's virtually impossible to keep a job, raise children, or simply keep a roof over your head if you're sitting in jail for days on end.

Multiple studies also suggest that being jailed before a trial lead to worse outcomes, including mental illness, increased recidivism, longer sentences, as well as multi-generational trauma as parents languish in jail. Because these people are remanded to state custody, it is up to the taxpayers to foot this bill, sometimes at expenses that total well into the millions. It's also worth mentioning that white defendants oftentimes pay far less bail than their BIPOC counterparts.

It is morally reprehensible that our government is allowed to detain men and women for days or even weeks on end. While we're not here today to eliminate cash bail bonds, HB 22-1067 is a vital step in the right direction to eliminating an old relic of Jim Crow days. We applaud Representatives Gonzales-Gutierrez and Woodrow for their hard work and dedication to this civil rights issue and urge you all to vote yes.

House Judiciary

02/15/2022 01:30 PM

HB22-1067 Clarifying Changes To Ensure Prompt Bond Hearings

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Tom Raynes For Colorado District Attorneys Council	CDAC is supportive of the bill. Section 2 is included as somewhat of a clean up provision to streamline the access and administration of funding to assist mostly rural jurisdictions comply with last year's HB 1280 that applied this same 48 hour hearing rule to the state courts.