



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senate Passes SB 252 to Reform Bail

The Oklahoma Senate today passed Senate Bill 252, which reforms the state's bail system. SB 252 ensures that most people accused of misdemeanors or nonviolent felonies are considered for unsecured release and are detained only if they threaten public safety or have a history of failing to appear in court.

Kris Steele, executive director of Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform, issued the following statement:

“Oklahoma’s current bail policies cost counties millions and detain citizens who have been convicted of nothing for weeks before trial, just because they can’t afford to post bail. Bail should not be a punishment tool. We can do better than jailing our citizens just for being poor. The Senate took a big step forward in correcting this injustice by passing Senate Bill 252 to enact bail reform.

I applaud the Legislature for working together to take this critical step toward moving Oklahoma out of the No. 1 spot for incarceration. This will make a tangible difference for justice-involved Oklahomans and their families. We appreciate the hard work on this issue and look forward to Senate Bill 252 passing the House and reaching the governor’s desk alongside four other active reforms that will move the needle on Oklahoma’s incarceration crisis.”

In addition to SB 252, the four remaining reforms supported by OCJR that are still active in the Legislature to stop prison growth and get Oklahoma out of No. 1 in incarceration are:

- SQ 780 retroactivity (HB 1269)
- Possession with intent to distribute reform (HB 1100)
- Sentence enhancement reform (HB 2009)
- Supervision reform (SB 616 and HB 2218)

About Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform

Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform advances safety, restoration and freedom in Oklahoma. We are a coalition of business and community leaders, law enforcement experts, service providers and advocates committed to justice reforms that improve public safety by reducing Oklahoma's bloated prison population, saving taxpayer dollars, reinvesting in alternatives and keeping families together.

To learn more, visit <https://okjusticereform.org>.

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