



American Jail Association Resolution on Pretrial Justice

WHEREAS, jails are populated by a majority of individuals in a pretrial status;

WHEREAS, the purposes of bail are to assure appearance in court and protect community safety;

WHEREAS, pretrial services can provide neutral and objective information required to make an appropriate bail recommendation to the court by utilizing tools such as risk assessments and drug and mental health screening instruments;

WHEREAS, crowded jails present a safety concern for jail administration and officer safety;

WHEREAS, pretrial supervision can be a safe and cost effective alternative to jail for those awaiting trial;

WHEREAS, the bond industry provides little or no supervision of those individuals awaiting trial;

WHEREAS, pretrial supervision offers access to services such as substance abuse and mental health treatment, often resulting in diversion programs in lieu of prosecution and thereby decreasing jail populations, while commercial sureties do not;

WHEREAS, pretrial officers compile reports on those they supervise, noting compliance with conditions, while commercial sureties do not;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the American Jail Association recognizes the value of high-functioning pretrial services agencies to enhance public and officer safety, safeguard the judicial process, and aid jail administrators in safely managing jail populations.

Motion: Moved to pass/adopt the Resolution on Pretrial Justice as submitted. Seconded and the motion was unanimously approved; American Jail Association Board of Directors' Meeting, Linthicum, Maryland; October 24, 2010.