



## CA SB – 10: California Money Bail Reform Act

Our tradition teaches us, “You shall commit no injustice in judgment; you shall not favor a poor person or defer to a great man; you shall judge your fellow with righteousness” (Leviticus 19:15). Our people have been mistreated by the authorities for thousands of years, and as such, we must recognize the urgency of ensuring that our criminal justice system is fair and equitable.

However, California’s legal system currently commits great injustice in judgement: on any given day, approximately 46,000 Californians who are awaiting trial or sentencing are imprisoned, not because they present a danger to society, but because they simply cannot afford bail. This means that while they await their due process, they are separated from their families and unable to go to work.

The California Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-CA) has joined a broad coalition of human rights and criminal justice reform organizations in support of **SB 10: The California Money Bail Reform Act of 2017**.

SB 10 safely reduces the number of people being held in jail awaiting trial. It ensures that those who are not a threat to public safety or at risk of fleeing are not held simply for their inability to afford bail. The bill would require, except when a person is arrested for specified violent felonies, that a pretrial services agency conduct a risk assessment and prepare a report that makes recommendations on conditions of release for the person pretrial.

Now RAC-CA is asking for the help of congregations and congregants to support the passage of this bill by taking these steps:

1. Call your State Assembly member to urge passage of SB10. (See <http://assembly.ca.gov/assemblymembers> for contact information.) Make these key points:
  - That thousands of Californians are held in jail before they’ve received their due process, simply because of their inability to post bail, is a violation of the sacred principle, ‘innocent until proven guilty’

- By requiring risk assessments, this bill increases the fairness of the bail system without jeopardizing public safety
  - This bill makes economic sense, too – according to the Board of State and County Corrections, it currently costs counties holding inmates awaiting trial over \$100 per inmate per day
- 2. Ask members of your congregation to call their Assemblymember -- there is great strength in numbers!
  - Forward this email with an appropriate introduction
  - Speak from the bima about the bill
  - Reach out to individuals and groups about the bill
- 3. Encourage your clergy to reinforce the messages of restorative justice and fairness in our criminal justice system from the pulpit Together, we can make a lasting difference for a fairer California!