



Envision Freedom Fund

195 Montague Street, 14th Floor

Brooklyn, NY 11201

envisionfreedom.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 2022

Contact: Julie Mente, Communications Manager, press@envisionfreedom.org, 917-723-3443

HIGH BAIL & JUDGES FUEL RISING PRETRIAL JAIL POPULATIONS IN NEW YORK STATE, PARTICULARLY FOR BLACK AND LATINX PEOPLE

A new report from Envision Freedom Fund shows the need for eliminating bail and pretrial detention in New York State

New York, NY— A new report from Envision Freedom Fund reveals significant and concerning trends in the implementation of bail reform in New York State, including rising rates of pretrial incarceration that are likely to continue—if not worsen—as the state’s bail reform laws are rolled back a second time.

Envision Freedom Fund’s analysis of statewide data reveals:

1. **Black and Latinx New Yorkers were over five times more likely to be incarcerated pretrial than white New Yorkers**, and people who live in lower income counties face higher pretrial detention rates.
2. **By the beginning of 2022, pretrial jail populations almost fully returned to pre-bail reform population levels.** Erie, Jefferson, Albany, and Ulster are among the counties where the number of people in jail pretrial has returned or surpassed pre-bail reform levels.
3. **Statewide, bail amounts set by judges from July 2020 to June 2021 averaged over \$21,000, with more than 1,000 bails set at \$100,000 cash or greater.** People arraigned in Albany County, Richmond County (Staten Island), and Bronx County were subjected to some of the highest dollar figures for bail during this period. 1 in 4 people are spending at least 30 days in jail on bail they cannot afford.

“The bail reform measures implemented in 2020 have allowed thousands of people to remain at home while awaiting trial. But the number of people being held on bail pretrial is going up as judges continue to use their discretion to incarcerate people pretrial on unaffordable bail, and the reforms are not making a dent in the racism and classism inherent to pretrial detention. What New York State needs is an end to money bail and pretrial detention. That’s what will stabilize

-continued-

-continued-

communities, ensure safety, and protect the rights and lives of New Yorkers facing the criminal legal system,” said Zoë Adel, Envision Freedom Fund’s research and advocacy manager.

This report adds to the growing body of evidence proving that the harms of bail and pretrial detention cannot be addressed by moderate reforms. At the forefront of the fight to end money bail and pretrial detention in New York State since 2015, Envision Freedom will continue to advocate for policies and legislation that will dismantle the inherently unfair, racist practices of the criminal legal system.

***Envision Freedom Fund (formerly Brooklyn Community Bail Fund)** works alongside impacted communities to dismantle the oppressive and interconnected criminal legal and immigration systems. With freedom as our guiding principle, we invest in innovative campaigns and programs that aim to win long-term, transformative change, while meeting the urgent needs of community members in the present.*

###