



AMERICAN JAIL ASSOCIATION
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SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS WORKING IN OUR NATION'S JAILS

American Jail Association Resolution Pretrial Justice

- WHEREAS,** the 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 provides accountability for those awaiting trial resulting in improved public safety and integrity of the judicial process;
- 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;
- THEREFORE BE
IT RESOLVED
THAT** that the Board of Directors of the American Jail Association recognize 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.

Adopted on October 24, 2010, by the AJA Board of Directors in Baltimore, Maryland.