



A campaign led by JLUSA

## **Philadelphia CAN and MUST #EndCashBail WITHOUT Risk Assessment**

In Philadelphia, legally innocent people are jailed because of how prosecutors choose to assign charges and how judges set the price of their freedom. Two thirds of people in Philly jails are held pretrial on bail or probation/parole detainers. In order to bring our people home, we CAN and MUST #EndCashBail WITHOUT racist, biased Risk Assessment Instruments (RAIs). Instead of accepting new ways to disguise an oppressive system that puts our people in cages, we must end cash bail and detainers, demolish the House of Correction, and BRING OUR PEOPLE HOME.

### **What are Risk Assessment Instruments (RAIs)?**

- Risk Assessment Instruments use data, algorithms and mathematical formulas to make recommendations for things like arrest, detention and supervision. The information and factors assessed by RAIs include data points such as age, zip code, education, gender, prior arrests, prior convictions, and family history. These factors are impossible to separate from race and class. The use of RAIs in pretrial decisions ensures discrimination.

### **How do Risk Assessment Instruments Cause Harm?**

- 1. Race & class bias:** RAIs claim to be objective, but the factors that they use to assign “risk” levels are informed by the same factors that drive all of mass incarceration: race and class. They label young people of color as “high risk” - and jail them while unconvicted.
- 2. RAIs predict behavior of police, prosecutors, and judges, NOT individual people:** RAIs keep historically targeted Black and Brown communities trapped in a cycle of incarceration and surveillance, because the tools rely on past contact with the system (like prior charges and arrests) to decide whether someone should be locked up pretrial.
- 3. RAIs keep people in jail:** Risk assessment technology is the new tool for putting and keeping unconvicted people in jail. It allows judges to justify pretrial detention. If city officials truly want to overhaul the system they will not create a new barrier to freedom.
- 4. No transparency or oversight:** RAIs are never transparent to the people whose lives they affect. The city of Philadelphia has not shared any information with the public about the pretrial risk assessment tool that they plan to secretly begin using this fall or how it works.

### **What does #CLOSEthecreek demand?**

- **NO pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument.**
- **Community oversight of pretrial justice by those directly-impacted**
- **Reinvestment in community-based supports that respond to individualized needs**
- **Cut the jail population by at least half, by ending cash bail and detainers**

*Learn more and join #CLOSEthecreek at [www.justleadershipusa.org/closethecreek](http://www.justleadershipusa.org/closethecreek).  
To get involved, contact Reuben Jones at [reuben@justleadershipusa.org](mailto:reuben@justleadershipusa.org) or 267-414-4764*