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What They Are Saying... "Bail Overhaul Wins Passage In New Jersey"

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What They Are Saying...

"Bail Overhaul Wins Passage In New Jersey"

Governor Christie To Sign Bipartisan Bail Reform Legislation With Support From Across The State

"New Jersey voters support 71-17 percent proposed changes to the state's bail system...Support is consistently strong among all party, gender and age groups." (Press Release, 8/11/14)

Wall Street Journal: "Christie Lands Bipartisan Victory Years in the Making" (Heather Haddon, "Bail Overhaul Wins Passage in New Jersey," Wall Street Journal, 8/4/14)

The American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey: "Today's vote by the Assembly marks an historic moment for civil rights in New Jersey, one made possible through years of careful deliberation and hard work from advocates, lawmakers and stakeholders alike. The reforms passed by the legislature today will curb a long-standing injustice faced by poor people and, disproportionately, by people of color who are often held in jail for months, and even years, not because they are dangerous or likely to flee, but because they can't afford bail." (Press Release, 8/4/14)

"Together, the end of money bail and the beginning of an actual right to a speedy trial amount to a tremendous victory for civil rights, racial justice, and the safety of New Jersey's communities."

Trenton Mayor Eric Jackson: "I believe it's a step toward that reform to keep those violent offenders in jail and folks who have lesser issues allow them to get out who may not have the financial means to pay lesser misdemeanor fines to allow them to get out of jail and reconnect with their families." (NJTV News With Mary Alice Williams, NJTV, 7/31/14)

"I think it's important that we take these steps to make sure we are fair in our judicial process but make sure that we're keeping those most violent offenders locked away."

Trenton Mayor Spokesman: "Mayor Jackson believes that the system needs to be reformed, and he applauds Gov. Christie for calling for it." (David Foster, "Baby in oven threat during Trenton home invasion highlighted in Gov. Christie's push for bail reform," Trentonian, 7/30/14)

New Jersey State Director for the Drug Policy Alliance Roseanne Scotti: "This is an enormous victory for justice, fairness and public safety." (Press Release, 8/4/14)

"The reforms New Jersey passed today—and the way those reforms were enacted—should become a model for the nation."

Assemblyman Whip Wilson (D-Camden): "Jail is not meant to be a detention center for the poor. The legislation we advanced today will create a more balanced bail system where a suspect's risk to the community is weighed more

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heavily than the resources at his disposal." (Geoff Mulvihill, "New Jersey Assembly approves bail overhaul," Associated Press, 8/4/14)

Assemblyman Vince Mazzeo (D-Atlantic): "Violent criminals, they'll be held so they don't go out and commit another crime, homicide, things that are really violent. This is long overdue. It just makes common sense to reform our bail system." (Kevin McArdle, "NJ voters to weigh-in on bail reform in November," NJ101.5, 8/4/14)

Assemblyman John Burzichelli (D-Gloucester/Salem/Cumberland): "[W]orking together, I think we've achieved the right balance between reforming our system and creating a safer and more just New Jersey." (Press Release, 8/4/14)

Assemblyman Raj Mukherji (D-Hudson): "In one fell swoop, these reforms will ensure public safety is protected and the most dangerous threats to society can't use their illicit gains to get back on our streets while fortifying the constitutional rights afforded to everyone in this state, expanding the options available to our judges for pretrial release, and providing much-needed funding to expand legal aid for low-income New Jerseyans." (Press Release, 8/4/14)

New Jersey Division of the NAACP President Richard Smith: "The bail system in New Jersey was broken." (NJTV News With Mary Alice Williams, NJTV News, 8/5/14)

Burlington County Times: "New Jersey's current bail system is far too one-sided to continue as is." (Editorial, "Changes in NJ's bail system are necessary," Burlington County Times, 8/7/14)

"Another important reason why reforms make sense: Poor, nonviolent offenders are often discriminated against in the current system...Taking the necessary steps to reform a system that allows dangerous criminals back on the streets to re-offend and penalizes poor, nonviolent offenders is imperative."

President of the New Jersey Association of Counties John Donnadio: "There's some significant cost savings involved there." (Michelle Caffrey, "N.J. bail reform could help county budgets, bring changes to corrections services," South Jersey Times, 8/4/14)

Camden County Freeholder Louis Cappelli, Jr.: "It's critical because too many innocent and poor people are in the jail as we speak. It goes back into the pockets of the people and more importantly it makes room in the jail for those who are violent." (NBC10 News at 4pm, NBC Philadelphia, 7/31/14)

Assemblywoman Annette Quijano (D-Union): "Common sense reform like this is very clearly needed." (Press Release, 8/4/14)

Assemblywoman Maria Rodriguez-Gregg (R- Burlington, Atlantic and Camden): ""This is a significant step, making our towns and communities safer for New Jersey families and seniors." (Press Release, 8/4/14)

"Once the voters approve the constitutional amendment in November, judges will finally have the authority to prevent the release of violent defenders on bail."

Assembly Republican Conference Leader Dave Rible (R-Monmouth and Ocean): "When violent criminals are off the streets, the streets are safer for everybody. This was a long time coming..." (Press Release, 8/4/14)

Assemblywoman Mary Pat Angelini (R-Monmouth): "We took a big step today toward reforming our bail system so it better protects law abiding New Jerseyans from callous and desperate offenders." (Press Release, 8/4/14)

"By providing judges with an option to deny bail to the most ruthless, dangerous criminals, we can stop a cycle of violence and bloodshed that has become all too common."

"This will help make New Jersey's streets and neighborhoods safer for all residents."

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