

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4474

To discourage the use of payment of money as a condition of pretrial release
in criminal cases, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

Mr. TED LIEU of California introduced the following bill; which was referred
to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To discourage the use of payment of money as a condition
of pretrial release in criminal cases, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “No Money Bail Act
5 of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Nearly 60 percent of the inmates in jails in
9 the United States are pretrial detainees who have
10 not been convicted of a crime, an estimated 75 per-

1 cent of whom have been charged with nonviolent
2 crimes.

3 (2) Under current bail systems that use pay-
4 ment of money as a condition of pretrial release,
5 nearly 50 percent of the most dangerous pretrial de-
6 tainees are released without supervision, according
7 to a study by the Arnold Foundation.

8 (3) Throughout the Nation, those with money
9 can buy their freedom while poor defendants remain
10 incarcerated awaiting trial.

11 (4) Pretrial detention costs State and local gov-
12 ernments an estimated \$14,000,000,000 each year.

13 (5) Pretrial detention should be based on
14 whether the accused is likely to fail to appear in
15 court or is a threat to public safety, not the ability
16 to pay money as a condition of pretrial release.

17 (6) The States, the United States Department
18 of Justice, law enforcement agencies, public officials,
19 and community groups should collaborate to develop
20 pretrial detention systems that improve public safe-
21 ty, reduce costs, and discourage criminal behavior.

22 **SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS UNDER THE BYRNE JAG**
23 **PROGRAM.**

24 Section 505 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe
25 Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3755) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) by adding at the end the following:

3 “(3) ELIGIBILITY.—Beginning with the third
4 fiscal year beginning after the enactment of the ‘No
5 Money Bail Act of 2019’, the Attorney General shall
6 not allocate any amounts appropriated to carry out
7 this part to any State that uses payment of money
8 as a condition of pretrial release with respect to
9 criminal cases.”; and

10 (B) in paragraph (1) by striking “in para-
11 graph (2)” and inserting “in paragraphs (2)
12 and (3)”; and

13 (2) in subsection (f)—

14 (A) by striking “If the Attorney General”
15 and inserting “(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Attor-
16 ney General”; and

17 (B) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(2) STATE INELIGIBLE DUE TO SYSTEM OF
19 BAIL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), if the Attor-
20 ney General determines with respect to any grant
21 period that a State is made ineligible by subsection
22 (a)(3), the Attorney General shall reallocate any
23 amounts allocated to or that would have been allo-
24 cated to such State for such period—

25 “(A) among the other eligible States; and

1 “(B) in proportion to allocations among el-
2 igible States under subsection (a).”.

3 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION OF MONEY BAIL IN FEDERAL CRIMI-**
4 **NAL CASES.**

5 Notwithstanding any provision of Federal law, no jus-
6 tice, judge, or other judicial official in any court created
7 by or under article III of the Constitution of the United
8 States may use payment of money as a condition of pre-
9 trial release in any criminal case.

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