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Mr. Michael Hough
Director Public Safety and Elections
Task Force
American Legislative Exchange Council
1101 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Hough:

I received your letter of January 29, 2010 and the booklet "Taxpayer Funded Pretrial Release, A Failed System." The booklet is informative and clearly sets out the pros and cons of pretrial release. Your statistics show that secured release from pretrial custody generally holds down crime rates. These are the defendants who usually keep their court dates and remain crime free while awaiting trial. Those with unsecured release tend to miss court dates, are likely to continue their criminal activity. By shifting away from government secured releases toward privately secured releases that "failure to appear" rate can be cut drastically and neighborhoods made safer.

The topic of secured versus unsecured releases continues to be widely debated and discussed. Thank you, again, for sharing your information.

Sincerely,



Harry "Tommy" Thomas, Jr.
Councilmember, Ward 5