



STOP IMMIGRATION BOND ABUSE ACT (SIMBAA)

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THE PROBLEM

Every year, hundreds of thousands of immigrants nationwide, including thousands in New York State, are locked up in immigration detention. Immigrants can spend months or even years behind bars, separated from their families, while their civil immigration case goes on and they fight their deportation.

To get out, many detained immigrants have to put up an immigration bond- but their freedom can come with a steep price tag. The average immigration bond has surged to \$8,500, a 70% jump since 2013, and is out of reach for most.

Unfortunately, detained immigrants who are desperate and vulnerable are often taken advantage of by for-profit immigration bond companies. In recent years, testimonies by immigration bond company clients, journalistic investigations, and lawsuits against bond companies--including by the federal government and New York State--have revealed a pattern of abuse by immigration bond companies:

- Contracts that require clients to wear intrusive and dangerous electronic shackles or consent to other forms of surveillance;
- Exorbitant fees, in excess of \$450 per month for years at a time, which are not refunded when clients win their immigration case;
- Contracts that are never translated or explained in the languages of immigrant bond clients, and unclear or misleading information about contract terms; and
- A lack of government oversight and regulation of the immigration bond industry which has allowed abusive and fraudulent practices to continue.

THE SOLUTION

Immigrant New Yorkers should not be preyed upon by an unregulated, exploitative immigration bond industry. New York can end the exploitation of immigrant families by profiteering corporations by passing the Stop Immigrant Bail Abuse Act (SIMBAA).

WHAT DOES THE STOP IMMIGRATION BOND ABUSE ACT DO?

1. Comprehensively regulate for-profit immigration bond companies for the first time.
2. Prohibit for-profit immigration bond companies from imposing electronic shackles and surveillance.
3. Cap exorbitant fees and charges on immigration bonds.
4. Crack down on deceptive contracts and abusive practices.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Sign on as an Individual or Organizational Supporter via bit.ly/BreaktheShacklesNYS
- Call your State Representatives & urge them to sponsor and vote for SIMBAA!
- Share your commitment via social media using #BreakShacklesNY !