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TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: The Office of the Attorney General

RE: SB 23 – Conditions of Pretrial Release - Home Detention Monitoring– **Letter of Support**

The Office of the Attorney General urges the Judicial Proceedings to favorably report Senate Bill 23. Senator Hettleman's legislation prevents the government from charging indigent defendants for their private home detention monitoring costs and, instead, permits eligible counties to cover home detention monitoring costs with grant funding obtained from the Pretrial Services Program Grant Fund.

Just as the Attorney General supported bail reform to prevent long-term pretrial detentions of individuals merely due to their indigency, and just as he supported eliminating fee-based driver's licenses suspensions for people of limited means, he also supports the provision of pretrial services, including monitoring, free of cost to those individuals who are not yet convicted.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges the Committee to favorably report Senate Bill 23.

cc: Judicial Proceedings Committee Members