



# LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL!



CALEB CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLATFORM

## OUR VISION

**WE SEEK TO REMOVE THE PROFIT MOTIVE FROM OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

As children, we learn the Pledge of Allegiance. The words “with liberty and justice for all” become ingrained in our psyches as the most basic rights afforded to those of us in the United States. Unfortunately, **the reality is that liberty and justice are not available to all, but more often to those who can pay.**

Using **research-based tools to inform policy**, CALEB’s Criminal Justice Task Force envisions a just society where **due process is a right** and **money is not a barrier to freedom.**

## THE PROBLEM

**TENNESSEE’S INCARCERATION RATE IS 10% ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.**

In 2020, **half of those incarcerated in Tennessee** were held pending trial while **still presumed innocent** by the court system. **In Hamilton County, that number was 63%.** People risk losing their jobs and housing. They are separated from their families and sit in jail simply because they can't pay to get out.

If the incarcerated person is an immigrant, **local cooperation with ICE results in expensive immigration bonds of up to \$20,000, bail that is almost impossible to make.** All of this disproportionately hurts the poor, people of color, and immigrants, and it further destabilizes communities.

**“IT’S CLEAR WE CANNOT INCARCERATE OUR WAY OUT OF THE ISSUES FACING TENNESSEE’S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. . .”**

-- TONY PARKER, COMMISSIONER FOR TN DEPT OF CORRECTIONS, 2019

### WE NEED A CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM THAT FOLLOWS THESE CORE VALUES:

**LIBERTY**  
IS THE NORM PENDING TRIAL

We want **pretrial freedom** for accused individuals to be the norm without restrictions, such as ankle-monitors or unrelated drug testing. Limits to pretrial liberty should only be used when absolutely necessary to ensure court appearance or to protect the safety of the community.

**JUSTICE FOR ALL**  
WITHOUT PROFIT OR EXCESSIVE FEES

We want **community support and engagement, rather than pretrial supervision and incarceration.** As it stands, pretrial supervision costs are paid by the accused, and even minor infractions increase the likelihood of technical violations and negative case outcomes, setting people up to fail.

**DECARCERATION**  
IS THE ANSWER TO MASS INCARCERATION

An overreliance on jailing means higher costs for taxpayers, inhumane overcrowding, irresponsible outsourcing, and a court process that reflects unequal justice based on wealth. **Decarceration through pretrial reform, ending ICE cooperation agreements, and using citations in lieu of arrests** are ways we can make smarter decisions that reduce community harm.

Learn more, get involved, visit [www.calebcha.org/criminaljustice](http://www.calebcha.org/criminaljustice)