***Toplines:***

* ***This plan gives a good framework to a pre-trial system that will maximize public safety, maximize return to court and mitigate the highest risk.***
* SB 10 eliminates cash bail and establishes a risk-based pretrial system that utilizes evidence-based validated risk assessments. Risk assessments allow users to make an educated decision on pre-trial release using an unbiased scientifically proven way to understand the criminogenic risk factors of an individual.  This ensures public safety is the top priority for pre-trial release.
* Probation has the experience and expertise in assessment that will be critical to make this reform good for public safety and allow as few disruptions to positive social engagement for low risk offenders. We are experts in assessing and mitigating risk.

***Risk Assessments:***

* SB 10 eliminates cash bail and establishes a risk-based pretrial system that utilizes evidence-based validated risk assessments. Risk assessments allow the courts to make an educated decision regarding pre-trial release using a scientifically proven way to understand the criminogenic risk factors of an individual. This ensures public safety is the top priority for pre-trial release.
* Risk assessments are a proven way to protect public safety while enhancing opportunities for low-risk offenders to maintain critical societal/social supports that lower recidivism.
* We are not aware of any California risk assessment proven to be bias, but we do know that ensuring the use of evidence-based tools are critically important as is the local population validation of the risk tool to ensure no unintentional bias is present in an assessment tool.
* In meta-analysis of the research and studies in correctional science, it shows there are 8 principles that are scientifically validated that reduce recidivism.
* One of these is an actuarial validated risk tool that shows recidivism increases as risk increases (risk meaning risk to re-offend), and likewise, recidivism lowers as risk level lowers.
* Within validated risk tools there are both criminogenic and protective factors taken into account to determine risk to re-offend. This includes static factors and dynamic factors, meaning a person’s risk level can change over time based on their choices and activities.
* Validated risk assessments are a scientific tool – and given other options – an officer’s subjective opinion, a cash bail system or the release of dangerous and violent offenders – it is by far the best option to protect public safety, a person’s constitutional rights and mete out unbiased pre-trial release.
* Similarly, probation departments have successfully utilized risk assessments to help determine detention needs for juveniles. The utilization of assessments, along with other factors, is a large contributing factor to the decline in juvenile detention rates in the last 10 years. Evidence-based and validated risk tools help probation determine who can be safely treated in the community and who requires programs and services in a secure setting. Currently, nearly 90% of juveniles that come into contact with the justice system are safely treated in our communities.

***Good for Public Safety:***

* It is proven people who come into contact with the justice system have risk factors that make them more or less likely to return to court or to re-offend. Our goal is to ensure the people most likely to commit new crimes are not allowed to do so while also giving low-risk offenders the opportunity to maintain employment, familial connections and pro-social activities. All these factors help contribute to a person not committing new crimes, which is what is best for public safety.
* Under the current system, there is little information available to make release determinations. Determinations are heavily weighted on the commitment offense and the ability of the individual to post bail. This gives the courts very little information to work from to truly determine what is best for public safety.
* Our previous system was heavily based on the offense a person committed….an offense only gives a piece of the puzzle to understand, the often times, complicated and complex risk factors associated with a person’s likelihood to re-offend.
* Risk assessments give the courts a fuller picture of what to consider when determining release or release conditions. Risk assessments have been scientifically proven to consider principles widely accepted and studied throughout public safety research as risk factors for re-offense.
* We have been saying for many years that a risk-based system is better for public safety than an offense-based system, and that is what this appears to be moving toward.
* We appreciate that SB 10 reflects the informed and sound policies garnered from the many successful pretrial programs currently in place in many probation departments in California

***Probation Are Experts in Assessing and Mitigating Risk***

* Probation has the experience and expertise in assessment that will be critical to make this reform good for public safety and allow as few disruptions to positive social engagement for low risk offenders.
* We are experts in assessing and mitigating risk.
* If probation is funded to do it, we can make the reform work because we are the experts in this area.
* As we have done in other criminal justice reforms, we remain committed to a research-based approach to public safety that promotes positive behavior change.