



Victory! SIMBAA Passed!

On June 2nd, 2022 The Stop Immigrant Bond Abuse Act (SIMBAA) passed both the state assembly and senate, landing it at Governor Hochuls desk to be signed into law. This legislation is an incredible step in the right direction to protect immigrant new yorkers who are at risk of falling into the hands of predatory bond companies.

What is the problem with bond companies?

Immigrants who are detained by ICE, often experience prolonged periods of detention, which can be traumatizing to them and their families. In order to be released, those who qualify, apply for bonds that can go up to the thousands of dollars. Vulnerable families often turn to for-profit predatory immigration bond companies, who provide nebulous contracts (solely in English) and charge exorbitant fees for devices such as ankle monitors and other monitoring equipment. These fees only cover the rental of the device and do not go to the repayment of the bond, which leads to many people falling into debt and owing more money than the bond itself. These companies, such as Libre by Nexus are not regulated and have no oversight, which leads to the further defrauding and abuse of immigrant communities.

What does The Stop Immigrant Bond Abuse Act (SIMBAA) do?

Led by Senator Jamal Bailey and Assembly member Harvey Epstein, and organizations like African Communities Together and Envision Freedom Fund, SIMBAA will change the way these predatory bond companies operate in New York.

Once it goes into effect, the bill will:

- Prohibit private companies from using electronic shackles.
- Cap exorbitant fees and charges on immigration bonds.
- Ensure immigrants are not misled by profiteering businesses.

What happens next?

While this has been an incredible victory for immigrant communities in New York, we have a lot of work to do to stop immigration enforcement from detaining and deporting our loved ones. Make the Road New York, alongside partner organizations, will continue to advocate at the national and local level to hold DHS/ICE accountable and defund their ever expanding budget.

Together We Broke the Shackles!

To learn more about Make the Road New York's immigration work visit <https://maketheroadny.org>