

RESOLUTION AGAINST AUTOMATED PRE-TRIAL RISK ASSESSMENT TOOLS

WHEREAS, automated pre-trial risk assessment tools are artificial intelligence mathematical predictive models designed to be utilized and heavily relied upon in making pre-trial bail decisions; and

WHEREAS, the use and implementation of these risk assessment tools have been at the core of the larger, nationwide “Bail Reform” movement, where individuals have been arrested and released without bail only to commit more and more serious crimes after their release due to the reliance on these risk assessment tools; and

WHEREAS, the implementation and use of these tools in places such as New York, New Jersey and New Mexico have seen serious increases in crime, increases in victims of crime, increases in failure to appear rates and decreases in the application of judicial discretion by educated and trained human judges and magistrates; and

WHEREAS, as recent as July 2019, 27 independent research institutions such as HARVARD UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA and GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY, have signed a statement of concern regarding the use of these tools in the criminal justice system, noting that they suffer from serious technical flaws that undermine their accuracy, validity, and effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, even liberal social justice groups, non-profit think tanks and leading technology companies, that once championed these artificial intelligence tools have now reversed their thinking and boldly come out against the use of these tools in the criminal justice system and urge jurisdiction to not implement their use; and

WHEREAS, in TEXAS, legislation has been filed and passed by the Texas House and Texas Senate each, in the last two legislative sessions respectively, that would require the use of an automated pre-trial risk assessment tool in every bail decision in the state of Texas; and

WHEREAS, certain offices within our own Texas state government have spent an unknown amount of money in developing its own version of an automated pre-trial risk assessment tool known as Pretrial Risk Assessment Information System for Texas or “PRAISTX” and continue to push for its use under proposed “Bail Reform” policies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Republican Party of Texas hereby rejects any attempts, legislative or otherwise to implement or utilize any and all forms of an automated pre-trial risk assessment tool including “PRAISTX” and demands that pre-trial bail decisions be left to the discretion of elected human judges and magistrates.

SUBMITTED TO the Platform Committee of the <**** *Convention in Texas County,*> March ***, 2020 by
<*Your Name, Precinct #, Contact info*>