

# UNITED WORKING FAMILIES

My name is Emma Tai and I am the Executive Director of United Working Families, a political organization representing 100,000 members across the state of Illinois.

This testimony is in support of the Justice for Black Lives resolution, Resolution 20-2867. I urge the County Board to pass this resolution and then follow through by actually moving money out of policing and incarceration.

United Working Families supports taking money out of the Cook County Jail and the Cook County Sheriff's budget and putting that money into public services such as health care, mental health, restorative justice, housing, and job creation.

Policing and incarceration do not address the root causes of violence. Creating real community health and safety will require funding public services such as health care, mental health, housing, jobs, restorative justice, and more. These services should be provided in the communities where people live--not in the jail, which is what happens all too often.

The Cook County Jail is mostly used to lock people up who have not yet had their trials. These detainees are "innocent until proven guilty," but are kept in cages because they cannot afford to pay the money bails set by judges. We should be doing everything possible to reduce the number of people in jail by increasing the number of people who are able to live peaceful, healthy, and abundant lives. This means spending less on cages, and more on the vital services that all people need to thrive.