

FEEDBACK

Bail reform still has its flaws

Tiffany Wilson was the third woman in New Jersey to be killed by her intimate partner after he was released from custody pending trial. If we don't fix how the criminal justice system assesses the risk of domestic violence, she won't be the last.

Your editorial, "Bail reform not to blame for judge's error" (Feb. 13), takes the position that we should blame the judge and not the system. But the release of these murderers cannot be attributed solely to human error. Part of the problem is the use of a tool that purports to be a reliable way of assessing a defendant's risk to a person or the community. Everyone acknowledges, however, that the tool we're using does not predict the risk of domestic violence, which has different indicators than other crimes.

There are tools that predict the risk that a person charged with domestic violence will attack again or, worse, murder. It's time that pretrial detention decisions incorporate such a tool to assess the risk a victim of domestic violence faces while her abuser awaits trial. Otherwise, more women will die.

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