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In October of 2022, the Sheriff and I joined a bi-partisan group of Illinois State's Attorneys and Sheriffs and filed suit on behalf of my office, Sheriff Caruana, and the People of the State of Illinois challenging the constitutionality of the "SAFE-T Act." The case has been consolidated in Kankakee County, Illinois. It is expected that the assigned judge will make a decision on the law's constitutionality prior to the end of the year.

On December 1, our Illinois General Assembly amended the "pretrial fairness" portion of the SAFE-T Act. The recent amendments addressed some of the issues that I - and many States Attorneys - had identified after the law was originally passed. Specifically, that the "detention net" was not wide enough and the standards for detention - dangerousness and willful flight - were far too restrictive. Additionally, the prior version did not allow judges to issue bench warrants when defendants failed to appear for court.

The amended law is an improvement - but its passage and its language still offend our Constitution. As such, Winnebago County will remain in the lawsuit. This is consistent with the oath I took to defend the Illinois Constitution.

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