

NEW YORK STATE LEADERS: NO ROLLBACKS TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS!

We are civil rights, criminal justice reform, democracy, and philanthropic leaders and organizations that have long supported policies that advance a more safe and just New York. We are very troubled by recent proposals from Governor Kathy Hochul that would increase incarceration and racial disparities and undo years of work towards ending the criminalization of poverty and children.

As state lawmakers take on the challenges of keeping New Yorkers safe during this incredibly turbulent time, they must follow the evidence about what actually works to scale safety. Mental health, reentry, violence prevention, and housing - these are the investments that will make New York safe. We must be smart and reject the impulse to act for action's sake.

Mass incarceration was born of hasty political posturing and the fallacy that we can have justice or safety, but not both. Mass incarceration delivered generations of harm to the same Black, brown, poor, and immigrant communities hardest hit by crime without delivering them more safety.

That is why we are calling upon Governor Hochul, Lieutenant Governor Benjamin, and legislative leaders to protect bail, discovery, and Raise the Age reforms. We want New Yorkers to be safe. We have the evidence-based playbook to reduce crime, violence, and incarceration at the same time. Let's use it.

Signed,

A Little Piece of Light

Agnes Gund and the Art for Justice Fund

Alliance for Safety and Justice

American Civil Liberties Union

Black Alliance for Just Immigration

Black Public Defender Association

Brennan Center for Justice

Brooklyn Defender Service

Campaign Zero

Center for American Progress

Center for Community Alternatives

Center for Community Change

Center for Popular Democracy

Citizen Action of New York

Civil Rights Corps

Community Change Action

Detention Watch Network

Dignity and Power Now

Drug Policy Alliance

Envision Freedom Fund

Formerly Incarcerated, Convicted People & Families Movement

Free the People Western New York

FWD.us

Galaxy Gives

Gideon's Promise

Haitian Bridge Alliance
Immigrant Defense Project
Indivisible
Justice for Migrant Families WNY
Justice Policy Institute
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Just LeadershipUSA
Legal Aid Society
Long Island Social Justice Action Network
Make The Road New York
MomsRising
MoveOn
National Council of Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls
National Domestic Workers Alliance
New Hour for Women & Children - Long Island
New York Civil Liberties Union
New York Communities for Change
New York County Defender Services
New York Immigration Coalition
New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
New York State Defenders Association
New York Working Families Party
New Yorkers United for Justice
Parole Preparation Project
Partners for Justice
Partnership for the Public Good
Public Defenders' Coalition for Immigrant Justice
REFORM Alliance
Release Aging People in Prison
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
The #HALTsolitary Campaign
The Bail Project
The Bronx Defenders
The Gathering for Justice
The Innocence Project
The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
The Sentencing Project
Tow Foundation
United Auto Workers Region 9A
United We Dream
UnLocal, Inc.
Until Freedom
Vera Institute of Justice
VOCAL-NY
Voters Organized to Educate
WE GOT US NOW
Working Families Party
Worth Rises
Zealous