

## New York Community Organizations Support Making the State Commission of Correction Accountable to Its Mandate

([S. 8415](#) – Salazar / [A.8871](#) – Dilan) – Section H of the 2025 Omnibus Corrections Bill

When a person is incarcerated in New York, the conditions of confinement must meet basic constitutional requirements. But across the state – from Buffalo to New York City and Greene County to Suffolk County – many jails and prisons are plagued by human rights crises, terrible conditions, gross mismanagement, extreme violence and routine constitutional violations.

In New York City, the Rikers Island jail complex has a long and well-documented history of torture, abuse, violence, and a lack of safety for both incarcerated people and staff. The jails in Greene, Dutchess, and Onondaga counties, and also many others consistently put incarcerated people at grave risk of harm.<sup>i</sup>

State prisons are no different. The gruesome killings of Robert Brooks and Messiah Nantwi by correctional officers at Marcy and Mid-State Correctional Facilities is a recent stark and gut-wrenching example of the deadly and dangerous conditions incarcerated people face in New York state prisons.

The State Commission of Correction (SCOC) is an independent body mandated with the constitutional authority to ensure that correctional facilities across New York – all local jails and state prisons – are “**safe, stable and humane.**”<sup>ii</sup> The commission also has the power to shut down correctional facilities found to be out of compliance. But for more than 20 years<sup>iii</sup> the SCOC has consistently failed to meet its responsibility. In the final week of the 2025 legislative session, **Senator Julia Salazar** and **Assemblymember Erik Dilan** introduced and passed the **Omnibus Corrections Oversight bill** ([S. 8415](#) – Salazar / [A.8871](#) – Dilan).

Section H of this omnibus bill includes ([S. 856](#))-Salazar/ ([A.2315](#))-Gallagher, which aims to fix the SCOC by bringing greater accountability so that it meets its mandate with regards to jails and prisons throughout the state.

This legislation will expand and diversify the State Commission of Correction to ensure it meets its oversight mandate:

- **Expanding the Number of Commissioners:** The bill suggests adding six new commissioners to the SCOC (expanding it from three to nine), distributed among the governor, the state senate, the state assembly, and the [Correctional Association of New York \(CANY\)](#), an independent oversight organization. The governor would retain three appointments, and the senate, assembly, and CANY would each select two commissioners.
- **Diversifying Appointments:** The appointments would guarantee diversity in background, requiring commissioners who have experiences in public health, behavioral health care, indigent legal defense, prisoner’s rights litigation, and formerly incarcerated individuals.

We, the undersigned, call on Governor Kathy Hochul to immediately sign the Corrections Omnibus Bill (S. 8415 – Salazar /A.8871 – Dilan) into law, which will through Section H expand and diversify the State Commission of Corrections to ensure that all jails and prisons comply with minimum standards and constitutional obligations – otherwise, the SCOC is obligated to shut them down to prevent unsafe conditions, injuries, and deaths.

**Groups Supporting Section H of S.8415 – Salazar/ A.8871 – Dilan**

List in Formation – current as of September 9th, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Organizations (listed alphabetically):

1. ALAA - UAW 2325
2. A Little Piece of Light
3. AJ Muste Foundation for Peace and Justice
4. Ali Forney Center
5. Alliance of Rights and Recovery
6. American Friends Service Committee NY/NJ
7. AntiRacist Alliance
8. Appellate Advocates
9. Artistic Noise
10. Brooklyn Defender Services
11. Brooklyn For Peace
12. Bend the Arc Jewish Action, Riverdale Chapter
13. Brooklyn Heights Synagogue Social Justice Committee
14. Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC
15. Call To Action Metro NY
16. Center for Employment Opportunities
17. Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY)
18. Center on Race, Inequality, and the Law at NYU School of Law
19. Children's Rights
20. Citizen Action of New York
21. Close Rosie's
22. Columbia School of Social Work Abolition Caucus
23. Common Cause NY
24. Common Justice
25. Community Connections for Youth
26. Community Rising Project
27. Congregation Beth Elohim's Dismantling Racism Team
28. DRK Law, LLC
29. Drug Policy Alliance
30. Elders & Allies to Free the People-Rochester

31. End Prison Violence
32. ENJAN (End the New Jim Crow Action Network)
33. Families and Friends of the Wrongfully Convicted Inc.
34. Families Against Mandatory Minimum
35. Families For Freedom
36. Fiddleheads Food Co-op
37. Free The People WNY
38. Freedom To Thrive
39. From The Yard 2 Da Streetz
40. Forbes Tv
41. For the Many
42. Gathering for Justice
43. Good Call
44. Harlem United
45. Help Roads
46. Housing Works
47. Hudson Catskill Housing Coalition
48. Human Rights-Racial Justice Center-H2RJ
49. Indivisible Rochester
50. Jews For Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ)
51. Justice Center of Rensselaer County
52. Justice For families, LTD
53. Katal Center for Equity, Health, and Justice
54. Kings Against Violence Initiative (KAVI)
55. LatinoJustice, PRLDEF
56. Legal Aid Society of Nassau County
57. Long Island Progressive Coalition
58. Long Island Social Justice Action Network (LISJAN)
59. Make the Road New York
60. Malikah
61. Masjid Adam Community Life Center for Human Excellence
62. Mixteca Organization, Inc.
63. Mothers on the Inside
64. MomsRising
65. Muslim Community Network
66. NAMI NYS
67. National Action Network NYC Chapter Second Chance Committee
68. National Association of Social Workers - NY
69. Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem
70. New Hour for Women and Children LI

71. New Pride Agenda
72. New York Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement
73. New York Civil Rights Law Group
74. New York Communities for Change
75. New York County Defender Services
76. New York Immigration Coalition
77. New York Jewish Agenda (NYJA)
78. New York Progressive Action Network
79. New York Progressive Action Network- Southern Finger Lakes
80. New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
81. New York State Council of Churches
82. New York State Defenders Association
83. New York Working Families Party
84. Nurses for Social Justice
85. NYC Metro Raging Grannies
86. Partnership for the Public Good
87. Peer Network of New York
88. Perlmutter Center for Legal Justice at Cardozo Law
89. Plymouth Church
90. Power of 3
91. Pretrial Justice Institute
92. Prison Families Alliance
93. Prisoners Are People Too, Inc.
94. Queen Defenders
95. Restorative Action Alliance, Inc.
96. Rise and Resist NYC
97. Rockland Coalition To End the New Jim Crow
98. Safe Horizon
99. Secure Justice
100. Silberman Social Workers for Palestine
101. Simply Put
102. Soaps by Kristy
103. S.T.O.P. - Surveillance Technology Oversight Project
104. SSAC Silberman School of Social Work
105. Social Workers & Allies Against Solitary Confinement
106. Spiritus Christi Prison Outreach Inc.
107. The Brotherhood Sister Sol
108. The Freedom Unshackled Coalition
109. The Pillars of Promise
110. The Remedy Project

- 111. Unchained
- 112. UnLocal
- 113. We Are Revolutionary
- 114. Witness to Mass Incarceration Inc
- 115. Worth Fighting For - NYC
- 116. Worth Rises
- 117. Youth Justice Network
- 118. Youth Represent
- 119. 50501 Rochester NY

To endorse this letter, to participate in the campaign, or if you have any questions, please contact:

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<sup>i</sup> New York State Commission on Correction. *The Worst Offenders Report: The Most Problematic Local Correctional Facilities of New York State*. February 2018.

<https://scoc.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/09/problematic-jails-report-2-2018.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> NYS Commission on Correction. "About the Commission of Correction." New York State.

<https://scoc.ny.gov/about-commission-correction>

<sup>iii</sup> Eliza Fawcett. "This Agency Is Supposed to Monitor Jails. Is Anyone Monitoring It?" New York Focus. December 18, 2023. <https://nysfocus.com/2023/12/18/new-york-jail-prison-correction-scoc>