

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.ⁱ

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.**”ⁱⁱ The commission also has the power to shut down correctional facilities found to be out of compliance. But for more than 20 yearsⁱⁱⁱ 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 November 25th, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Organizations (listed alphabetically):

1. African Communities Together
2. ALAA - UAW 2325
3. A Little Piece of Light
4. AJ Muste Foundation for Peace and Justice
5. Ali Forney Center
6. Alliance of Rights and Recovery
7. American Friends Service Committee NY/NJ
8. AntiRacist Alliance
9. Appellate Advocates
10. Artistic Noise
11. Books Beyond Bars (Center for Appellate Litigation)
12. Bowled Co
13. Brooklyn Defender Services
14. Brooklyn For Peace
15. Bend the Arc Jewish Action, Riverdale Chapter
16. Brooklyn Heights Synagogue Social Justice Committee
17. Brownsville Movement Inc
18. Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC
19. Call To Action Metro NY
20. Catholics Vote Common Good
21. Center for Employment Opportunities
22. Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY)
23. Center on Race, Inequality, and the Law at NYU School of Law
24. Children's Rights
25. Citizen Action of New York
26. Close Rosie's
27. Columbia School of Social Work Abolition Caucus
28. Common Cause NY
29. Common Justice
30. Community Connections for Youth

31. Community Rising Project
32. Community Voices Heard
33. Congregation Beth Elohim's Dismantling Racism Team
34. Defenders Clinic of CUNY School of Law
35. DNICEELEVATION
36. Dutchess County Public Defender
37. DRK Law, LLC
38. Drug Policy Alliance
39. Elders & Allies to Free the People-Rochester
40. End Prison Violence
41. ENJAN (End the New Jim Crow Action Network)
42. Evergreen Health
43. Everything LeJit, inc
44. Families and Friends of the Wrongfully Convicted Inc.
45. Families Against Mandatory Minimum
46. Families For Freedom
47. Fiddleheads Food Co-op
48. Farrgo Footage LLC
49. Fresh Health Food
50. Free The People WNY
51. Freedom To Thrive
52. From The Yard 2 Da Streetz
53. Forbes Tv
54. For the Many
55. Gathering for Justice
56. Gettipsywmymy
57. Good Call
58. Harlem United
59. Help Roads
60. Housing Works
61. Hudson Catskill Housing Coalition
62. Human Rights-Racial Justice Center-H2RJ
63. Indivisible Rochester
64. Innocence Project
65. JahLovesCo LLC
66. Jews For Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ)
67. Justice Center of Rensselaer County
68. Justice For families, LTD
69. Katal Center for Equity, Health, and Justice
70. Kings Against Violence Initiative (KAVI)

71. LatinoJustice, PRLDEF
72. Legal Aid Society of Nassau County
73. Long Island Progressive Coalition
74. Long Island Social Justice Action Network (LISJAN)
75. Make a Way & Prosper
76. Make the Road New York
77. Malikah
78. Masjid Adam Community Life Center for Human Excellence
79. Mixteca Organization, Inc.
80. Mothers on the Inside
81. MomsRising
82. Muslim Community Network
83. NAMI NYS
84. National Action Network NYC Chapter Second Chance Committee
85. National Associate of Social Workers - NY
86. Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem
87. New Hour for Women and Children LI
88. New Pride Agenda
89. New York Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement
90. New York Civil Rights Law Group
91. New York Communities for Change
92. New York County Defender Services
93. New York Immigration Coalition
94. New York Jewish Agenda (NYJA)
95. New York Progressive Action Network
96. New York Progressive Action Network- Southern Finger Lakes
97. New York Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-NY)
98. New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
99. New York State Council of Churches
100. New York State Defenders Association
101. New York Working Families Party
102. Nostrand Deli and Grocery
103. Nurses for Social Justice
104. NYC Metro Raging Grannies
105. NYS Minorities in Criminal Justice, Inc
106. Partnership for the Public Good
107. Peer Network of New York
108. Perfect Imperfection
109. Perlmutter Center for Legal Justice at Cardozo Law
110. Plymouth Church

111. Power of 3
112. Pretrial Justice Institute
113. Prison Families Alliance
114. Prisoners Are People Too, Inc.
115. Putnam Progressives
116. Queen Defenders
117. ReEntry Columbia
118. Restorative Action Alliance, Inc.
119. Rise and Resist NYC
120. Rockland Coalition To End the New Jim Crow
121. Safe Horizon
122. Secure Justice
123. Silberman Social Workers for Palestine
124. Simply Put
125. Soaps by Kristy
126. S.T.O.P. - Surveillance Technology Oversight Project
127. S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth, Inc.
128. SSAC Silberman School of Social Work
129. Social Workers & Allies Against Solitary Confinement
130. Spiritus Christi Prison Outreach Inc.
131. The Brotherhood Sister Sol
132. The Daily Deposit Collective LLC
133. The Freedom Unshackled Coalition
134. The Pillars of Promise
135. The Remedy Project
136. TRT Studios
137. UGU LLC
138. Unchained
139. UnLocal
140. Uri L'Tzedek
141. We Are Revolutionary
142. Witness to Mass Incarceration Inc
143. Worth Fighting For - NYC
144. Worth Rises
145. Yonkers Board of Education
146. Youth Justice Network
147. Youth Represent
148. 50501 Rochester NY

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

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ⁱ 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>

ⁱⁱ NYS Commission on Correction. “About the Commission of Correction.” New York State.

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

ⁱⁱⁱ 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>