

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 7th, 2025, 11:00 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. Brooklyn Defender Services
13. Brooklyn For Peace
14. Bend the Arc Jewish Action, Riverdale Chapter
15. Brooklyn Heights Synagogue Social Justice Committee
16. Brownsville Movement Inc
17. Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC
18. Call To Action Metro NY
19. Center for Employment Opportunities
20. Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY)
21. Center on Race, Inequality, and the Law at NYU School of Law
22. Children's Rights
23. Citizen Action of New York
24. Close Rosie's
25. Columbia School of Social Work Abolition Caucus
26. Common Cause NY
27. Common Justice
28. Community Connections for Youth
29. Community Rising Project
30. Community Voices Heard

31. Congregation Beth Elohim's Dismantling Racism Team
32. Defenders Clinic of CUNY School of Law
33. DRK Law, LLC
34. Drug Policy Alliance
35. Elders & Allies to Free the People-Rochester
36. End Prison Violence
37. ENJAN (End the New Jim Crow Action Network)
38. Families and Friends of the Wrongfully Convicted Inc.
39. Families Against Mandatory Minimum
40. Families For Freedom
41. Fiddleheads Food Co-op
42. Free The People WNY
43. Freedom To Thrive
44. From The Yard 2 Da Streetz
45. Forbes Tv
46. For the Many
47. Gathering for Justice
48. Good Call
49. Harlem United
50. Help Roads
51. Housing Works
52. Hudson Catskill Housing Coalition
53. Human Rights-Racial Justice Center-H2RJ
54. Indivisible Rochester
55. Jews For Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ)
56. Justice Center of Rensselaer County
57. Justice For families, LTD
58. Katal Center for Equity, Health, and Justice
59. Kings Against Violence Initiative (KAVI)
60. LatinoJustice, PRLDEF
61. Legal Aid Society of Nassau County
62. Long Island Progressive Coalition
63. Long Island Social Justice Action Network (LISJAN)
64. Make a Way & Prosper
65. Make the Road New York
66. Malikah
67. Masjid Adam Community Life Center for Human Excellence
68. Mixteca Organization, Inc.
69. Mothers on the Inside
70. MomsRising

71. Muslim Community Network
72. NAMI NYS
73. National Action Network NYC Chapter Second Chance Committee
74. National Associate of Social Workers - NY
75. Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem
76. New Hour for Women and Children LI
77. New Pride Agenda
78. New York Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement
79. New York Civil Rights Law Group
80. New York Communities for Change
81. New York County Defender Services
82. New York Immigration Coalition
83. New York Jewish Agenda (NYJA)
84. New York Progressive Action Network
85. New York Progressive Action Network- Southern Finger Lakes
86. New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
87. New York State Council of Churches
88. New York State Defenders Association
89. New York Working Families Party
90. Nurses for Social Justice
91. NYC Metro Raging Grannies
92. NYS Minorities in Criminal Justice, Inc
93. Partnership for the Public Good
94. Peer Network of New York
95. Perlmutter Center for Legal Justice at Cardozo Law
96. Plymouth Church
97. Power of 3
98. Pretrial Justice Institute
99. Prison Families Alliance
100. Prisoners Are People Too, Inc.
101. Putnam Progressives
102. Queen Defenders
103. Restorative Action Alliance, Inc.
104. Rise and Resist NYC
105. Rockland Coalition To End the New Jim Crow
106. Safe Horizon
107. Secure Justice
108. Silberman Social Workers for Palestine
109. Simply Put
110. Soaps by Kristy

111. S.T.O.P. - Surveillance Technology Oversight Project
112. SSAC Silberman School of Social Work
113. Social Workers & Allies Against Solitary Confinement
114. Spiritus Christi Prison Outreach Inc.
115. The Brotherhood Sister Sol
116. The Freedom Unshackled Coalition
117. The Pillars of Promise
118. The Remedy Project
119. UGU LLC
120. Unchained
121. UnLocal
122. Uri L'Tzedek
123. We Are Revolutionary
124. Witness to Mass Incarceration Inc
125. Worth Fighting For - NYC
126. Worth Rises
127. Youth Justice Network
128. Youth Represent
129. 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>