

## **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 December 15th, 2025, 2:00 p.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. Aranda Law Firm, PLLC
11. Artistic Noise
12. Books Beyond Bars (Center for Appellate Litigation)
13. Bowled Co
14. Brooklyn Defender Services
15. Brooklyn For Peace
16. Bend the Arc Jewish Action, Riverdale Chapter
17. Brooklyn Heights Synagogue Social Justice Committee
18. Brownsville Movement Inc
19. Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC
20. Call To Action Metro NY
21. Catholics Vote Common Good
22. Center for Employment Opportunities
23. Center for Family Representation
24. Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY)
25. Center on Race, Inequality, and the Law at NYU School of Law
26. Champion Laundry & Dry Cleaning LLC
27. Children's Rights
28. Citizen Action of New York
29. Close Rosie's
30. Columbia School of Social Work Abolition Caucus

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

71. Jews For Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ)
72. Justice Center of Rensselaer County
73. Justice For families, LTD
74. Justice Ministries, Presbytery of NYC (PCUSA)
75. Katal Center for Equity, Health, and Justice
76. Kings Against Violence Initiative (KAVI)
77. LatinoJustice, PRLDEF
78. Legal Aid Society of Nassau County
79. Long Island Progressive Coalition
80. Long Island Social Justice Action Network (LISJAN)
81. Make a Way & Prosper
82. Make the Road New York
83. Malikah
84. Masjid Adam Community Life Center for Human Excellence
85. Mixteca Organization, Inc.
86. Mothers on the Inside
87. MomsRising
88. Muslim Community Network
89. NAMI NYS
90. National Action Network NYC Chapter Second Chance Committee
91. National Associate of Social Workers - NY
92. Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem
93. New Hour for Women and Children LI
94. New Justice Project
95. New Pride Agenda
96. New York Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement
97. New York Civil Rights Law Group
98. New York Communities for Change
99. New York County Defender Services
100. New York Immigration Coalition
101. New York Jewish Agenda (NYJA)
102. New York Progressive Action Network
103. New York Progressive Action Network- Southern Finger Lakes
104. New York Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-NY)
105. New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
106. New York State Council of Churches
107. New York State Defenders Association
108. New York Working Families Party
109. North Star Fund
110. Nostrand Deli and Grocery

111. Nurses for Social Justice
112. NYC Metro Raging Grannies
113. NYS Minorities in Criminal Justice, Inc
114. Partnership for the Public Good
115. Peer Network of New York
116. Perfect Imperfection
117. Perlmutter Center for Legal Justice at Cardozo Law
118. Plymouth Church
119. Power of 3
120. Pretrial Justice Institute
121. Prison Families Alliance
122. Prisoners Are People Too, Inc.
123. Public Intellectuals for Social and Spare Change
124. Putnam Progressives
125. Queen Defenders
126. ReEntry Columbia
127. Restorative Action Alliance, Inc.
128. Rise and Resist NYC
129. Rockland Coalition To End the New Jim Crow
130. Safe Horizon
131. Secure Justice
132. Silberman Social Workers for Palestine
133. Silver Jewish Community, NYU
134. Simply Put
135. Sermons, Jesus of Nazareth, and Justice New York
136. Soaps by Kristy
137. St. Matthew Trinity Lunchtime Ministry
138. S.T.O.P. - Surveillance Technology Oversight Project
139. S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth, Inc.
140. SSAC Silberman School of Social Work
141. Social Workers & Allies Against Solitary Confinement
142. Spiritus Christi Prison Outreach Inc.
143. The Brotherhood Sister Sol
144. The Daily Deposit Collective LLC
145. The Freedom Unshackled Coalition
146. The Pillars of Promise
147. The Remedy Project
148. TRT Studios
149. UGU LLC
150. Unchained

151. UnLocal
152. Uri L'Tzedek
153. We Are Revolutionary
154. Witness to Mass Incarceration Inc
155. Worth Fighting For - NYC
156. Worth Rises
157. Yonkers Board of Education
158. Youth Justice Network
159. Youth Represent
160. 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>