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 years[iii] 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 is 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 8th, 2025, 9:00 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 Family Representation
23. Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY)
24. Center on Race, Inequality, and the Law at NYU School of Law
25. Children's Rights
26. Citizen Action of New York
27. Close Rosie’s
28. Columbia School of Social Work Abolition Caucus
29. Common Cause NY
30. Common Justice

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

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

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

151. Youth Represent
152. 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