

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

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

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

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

151. The Remedy Project
152. TRT Studios
153. UGU LLC
154. Unchained
155. UnLocal
156. Uri L'Tzedek
157. Wayfinder Recovery
158. We Are Revolutionary
159. Witness to Mass Incarceration Inc
160. WNY Peace Center
161. Worth Fighting For - NYC
162. Worth Rises
163. Yonkers Board of Education
164. Youth Justice Network
165. Youth Represent
166. 50501 Rochester NY

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

Yonah Zeitz, New York advocacy director, Katal Center: yonah@katalcenter.org | 347.201.2768

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>