

Statement by Criminal Justice Reform Groups Across New York

The governor's commitment to criminal justice reform is welcomed and needed. At his 2018 State of the State Address, the governor said, "Race and wealth should not be factors in our criminal justice system." We wholeheartedly agree with the governor on this point and believe achieving this goal is an urgent priority for New York.

However, we have deep concerns about many of the details in the governor's current criminal justice reform package. These proposals are unsupportable as they currently stand. The proposals will not produce the outcomes he seeks to achieve, or reflect the values he seeks to uphold. While there are good components in some of the proposals, including the bail reform bill, critical amendments are needed to make true reform. The discovery and speedy trial proposals are a major step backwards, potentially causing more wrongful convictions, higher rates of pretrial detention with sharp racial disparities, and even more case delays. These proposals are counterproductive to the progress New York has made in criminal justice reform to date.

We are united in the belief that the time for reform is now. We look forward to working with the governor and legislature to improve these proposals so that we may stand together in advancing reform.

Sincerely,

*Listed in alphabetical order by org name
38 Signatories as of 8:30 am on 2/5/2018*

- **5 Boro Defenders**
- **Albany County Public Defender**
- **Bronx Defenders**
- **Bronx Freedom Fund**
- **Brooklyn Community Bail Fund**
- **Brooklyn Defender Services**
- **Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement (CAIC)**
- **Center for Appellate Litigation**
- **Center for Community Alternatives, New York**
- **Center for Constitutional Rights**
- **Center for Law and Justice**
- **Correctional Association of New York**
- **Corrections Accountability Project, Urban Justice Center**
- **CUNY School of Law, Defenders Clinic, Prof. Nicole Smith et al.**
- **Discovery For Justice**
- **Fortune Society**
- **Green Party of NY (GPNY)**
- **Incarcerated Nation Corp.**

- **Interfaith Center of New York**
- **Interfaith Impact of NYS**
- **International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal**
- **Katal Center for Health, Equity, and Justice**
- **Legal Aid Society**
- **Legal Aid Society of Westchester County**
- **LPS/LIFE Progressive Services Group Inc.**
- **Middle Collegiate Church**
- **Nassau County Criminal Courts Bar Association**
- **National Alliance on Mental Illness, NAMI Huntington**
- **National Alliance on Mental Illness, NAMI-NYS (Criminal Justice)**
- **New York City Books Through Bars**
- **New York Civil Liberties Union**
- **New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers**
- **Park Avenue Christian Church, The Rev. Kaji S. Douša**
- **Photo Patch Foundation**
- **Release Aging People in Prison/RAPP Campaign**
- **STEPS to End Family Violence**
- **VOCAL-NY**
- **Youth Represent**