

#LessIsMoreNY

Less Mass Supervision = More Safety and Justice



New York Officials and Community Organizations Call for Passage of the *Less is More Act*

([S.1144](#) – Benjamin / [A.5493B](#) – Mosley)

New York reincarcerates more people on parole for technical violations like missing an appointment with a parole officer, being late for curfew, or testing positive for alcohol than any state in the country.¹ Of people on parole whom New York sent back to prison in 2016, over 6,300 or 65% were reincarcerated for technical parole violations.² Nearly 1/3 of the new admissions to state prisons are due to people reincarcerated for technical violations of parole. Only 14% of people on parole who were reincarcerated were returned to prison because they were convicted of a new crime.³ The racial disparity is stark: Black people are incarcerated in New York City jails for technical parole violations at more than 12 times the rate of whites.⁴

There are approximately 35,000 people under active parole supervision in New York State who at almost any time can see their efforts to successfully rejoin the workforce and reintegrate into their families and their communities disrupted by reincarceration for a technical violation.⁵ This not only harms individual lives and families without commensurate public safety gains, but also drives up the population in the state prisons and local jails, wasting taxpayer money.

The **Less is More: Community Supervision Revocation Reform Act** would fix this problem. Developed by people on parole, people currently incarcerated, family members, and groups across NY, the bill is sponsored by Sen. Brian Benjamin (S.1144) and Assm. Walter Mosley (A.5493B). Its provisions include:

- **Restricting the use of incarceration for technical violations.** Incarceration would be eliminated as a sanction for most technical violations. Certain technical violations could still result in jail time, but it would be capped at a maximum of 30 days.
- **Bolstering due process.** Rather than being automatically detained in local jails, people accused of a technical violation of parole would be issued a written notice of violation with a date to appear in court and would remain at liberty for any hearings. People on parole accused of a new criminal offense would be afforded a recognizance hearing in a local criminal court before they are detained, and the standards of the bail reform statute will apply.

¹ United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Probation and Parole in the United States, 2016* (Apr. 2018), Appendix Table 7, available at www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ppus16.pdf#page=22.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.* The rest were almost all reincarcerated to receive treatment.

⁴ Vincent Schiraldi and Jennifer L. Arzu. *Less is More in New York: An Examination of the Impact of State Parole Violations on Prison and Jail Populations*. (2018), available: <https://academiccommons.columbia.edu/doi/10.7916/D8RZ0Q06>

⁵ NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, *Community Supervision Staffing Legislative Report*, available at www.doocs.ny.gov/Research/Reports/2018/Community-Supervision-Staffing-Report-2018.pdf.

- **Providing speedy hearings.** Persons under community supervision shall be afforded a speedy adjudicatory hearing upon an alleged violation of their conditions of release.
- **Providing earned time credits.** People under community supervision would be eligible to earn a 30-day “earned time credits” reduction in their community supervision period for every 30-day period in which they do not violate a condition of supervision.

We, the undersigned, call for swift passage of the *Less is More Community Supervision and Revocation Reform Act* to reduce jail and prison populations; support people who are subject to community supervision in the reentry process; promote safety and justice for families and communities; and save taxpayers money.

Officials and Groups Supporting the *Less is More Act*

List in Formation – current as of January 21st, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

District Attorneys:

- Eric Gonzalez, Kings County District Attorney
- David Soares, Albany County District Attorney
- Cy Vance, New York County District Attorney
- Darcel Clark, Bronx County District Attorney
- Matthew Van Houten, Tompkins County District Attorney
- David Clegg, Ulster County District Attorney
- Anthony Scarpino, Westchester County District Attorney
- Lucy Lang, former New York County Assistant District Attorney and Executive Director of the Institute for Innovation in Prosecution
- Anne Milgram, Former New Jersey Attorney General and CNN Legal Analyst

District Attorney Candidates:

- Mimi Rocah, MSNBC Journalist, Westchester County District Attorney Elect
- Alvin Bragg, former Chief Deputy at the Attorney General's office and Candidate for Manhattan District Attorney
- Tahanie Aboushi, Civil Rights Attorney and Candidate for Manhattan District Attorney
- Janos Marton, Civil Rights Attorney and Candidate for Manhattan District Attorney

Sheriffs and Police

- Craig Apple, Albany County Sheriff
- Derek Osborne, Tompkins County Sheriff
- Peter Volkman, Village of Chatham Police Chief
- Brendan Cox, former Albany Police Chief
- Corey Pegues, Deputy Inspector (Retired), New York Police Department
- Joanne Naughton, Lieutenant (Retired), New York Police Department

Corrections, Parole, and Probation Commissioners

- Michael Jacobson, former NYC Commissioner of Correction, former NYC Commissioner of Probation
- James Payne, former NYC Commissioner of Probation
- Vincent Schiraldi, former NYC Commissioner of Probation
- Vanda Seward, former Statewide Director of Reentry Services for the New York State Division of Parole

Attorneys General

- Karol Mason, former U.S. Assistant Attorney General and President of John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- Robin Baker, former New York Executive Deputy Attorney General for Criminal Justice
- Denise E O'Donnell, Former U.S. Attorney, Western District of New York; former Director, U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance

Judges

- Jonathan Lippman, Former Chief Justice of the State of New York

NY Citywide Officials

- New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio
- New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer
- New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson
- New York City Council

NY County Officials

- Martha Robertson, Chair, Tompkins County Legislature
- Shawna Black, Vice Chair, Tompkins County Legislature
- Richard John, Chair, Tompkins County Legislature Public Safety Committee
- Amanda Champion, Tompkins County Legislator
- Deborah Dawson, Tompkins County Legislator
- Henry Granison, Tompkins County Legislator
- Rick John, Tompkins County Legislator
- Anne Korman, Tompkins County Legislator
- Mike Lane, Tompkins County Legislator
- David McKenna, Tompkins County Legislator
- David Sanders, Tompkins County Criminal Justice Coordinator
- Rochester City Council
- Eric Adams, Brooklyn Borough President
- Mary T. Kuhn, Onondaga County Legislator
- Rachel Barnhart, Monroe County Legislator
- Ernest Flagler-Michell, Monroe County Legislator
- Sabrina Lamar, Monroe County Legislator
- Frank Keophetlasy, Monroe County Legislator
- Monroe County Black and Asian Democratic Caucus

Organizations (listed alphabetically):

1. A Little Piece of Light
2. A More Just NYC
3. ADL New York/New Jersey
4. Albany 518 SNUG
5. Allegany County Public Defender
6. Alliance of Families for Justice (statewide)
7. American Friends Service Committee
8. Antioch Baptist Church (Harlem)
9. Appellate Advocates
10. Association of Legal Aid Attorneys (UAW Local 2325)
11. Auburn Seminary (NYC)
12. Avodah
13. Beacon Prison Action

14. Black Lives Matter - Syracuse
15. Black Public Relations Society-New York, Inc
16. Brooklyn Community Bail Fund
17. Brooklyn Defenders
18. Broome County Public Defender's Office
19. Bronx Clergy Criminal Justice Roundtable Inc.
20. Bronx Christian Fellowship Church
21. Bronx Defenders
22. Bronx Freedom Fund
23. Brotherhood Synagogue
24. Brownsville Think Tank Matters Inc.
25. B'nai Jeshurun
26. Call To Action (CTA) Metro NY
27. Candles for Clemency
28. Can't Buy Respect Agency, LLC (NYC/Los Angeles)
29. Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services (CASES)
30. Center for Appellate Litigation
31. Center for Community Alternatives (statewide)
32. Center for Employment Opportunities (national)
33. Center for Family Representation
34. Center for Law and Justice (Albany)
35. Center for NuLeadership (NYC)
36. Central New York Solidarity Coalition
37. Central Synagogue
38. Certain Days
39. Circle for Justice Innovations (CJI Fund - national)
40. Citizens Against Recidivism (statewide)
41. Close Rosie's
42. Coalition for Behavioral Health
43. College and Community Fellowship (statewide, national)
44. Columbia Justice Lab
45. Community Voices Heard
46. Community Votes
47. Community Service Society
48. Congregation Beit Simchat Torah
49. Congregation Beth Elohim
50. Corporation for Supportive Housing
51. Correctional Association of New York (statewide)
52. Dismantling Racism Team of Congregation Beth Elohim
53. Democratic Socialists of America – Syracuse chapter
54. Deskovic Foundation
55. Destination Tomorrow
56. Doula 4 a Queen (Syracuse)
57. Drug Policy Alliance (statewide, national)
58. Doe Fund (NYC)
59. East House Corporation
60. Educate Don't Incarcerate, LLC (NYC)
61. Emergency Release Fund
62. Exodus Transitional Community (NYC)
63. Exponents (NYC)
64. Fair and Just Prosecution (national)

65. Families and Friends of the Wrongfully Convicted, Inc.
66. Families for Sensible Drug Policy
67. Family Services
68. Fines and Fees Justice Center (statewide)
69. First Corinthian Baptist Church (Harlem)
70. First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn
71. Fortune Society (NYC)
72. Free Black Mamas Syracuse Collective
73. Freedom Agenda
74. Friends of Island Academy (NYC)
75. Friends of Recovery (FOR) NY
76. FWD.us (national)
77. Genesee County Public Defender Office
78. Getting Out Staying Out (NYC)
79. Good Call
80. Greater Hudson Promise Neighborhood
81. Greenburger Center (statewide)
82. Harm Reduction Coalition
83. Hebrew Institute of Riverdale Social Action Committee
84. Hiscock Legal Aid Society (Syracuse)
85. H.O.L.L.A. (Brooklyn)
86. Housing Works
87. Hudson/Catskill Housing Coalition
88. Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison
89. Human Rights Watch
90. Human Services Council (HSC)
91. Immanual & First Spanish Church
92. Incarcerated Nation (NYC)
93. Incurrigibles (national)
94. Institute for Innovation in Prosecution
95. Institute for the Black World (statewide, national)
96. It Could Happen to You (statewide)
97. Ithaca Prisoner Justice Network
98. It Takes A Village Action Organization, Inc.
99. Jail Ministry – Syracuse
100. Jails Action Coalition
101. JCC Harlem
102. Jewish Coalition on Criminal Justice Reform
103. Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA)
104. Jews for Racial & Economic Justice
105. Jim Owles Liberal Democratic Club
106. John Jay College Institute for Justice and Opportunity
107. Justice for Women Task Force
108. Justice Strategies
109. JustLeadershipUSA (NY, National)
110. Katal Center for Equity, Health, and Justice (NYC and Albany)
111. Kite's Nest (Hudson)
112. Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church
113. Law Enforcement Action Partnership (national)
114. League of Women Voters (NYC)
115. Legal Action Center (NY, national)

116. Legal Aid Society (NYC)
117. LIFE Camp, Inc. (Queens)
118. MADRE
119. Make The Road NY
120. Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan
121. Mental Health Association of Westchester
122. Micah Institute
123. Monroe County Public Defender's Office
124. Mott Haven Church
125. National Association of Social Workers – NYS Chapter
126. National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls
127. National Council of Jewish Women NY
128. Neighborhood Defender Service
129. Neighbors Against White Supremacy (NAWS) Central Queens
130. New Hour for Women and Children (Long Island)
131. New York City Bar Association
132. New York City Clergy Roundtable
133. New York City Jericho Movem
134. New York City Metro Raging Grannies
135. New York Civil Liberties Union
136. New York County Defender Services
137. New York Faith Leaders for Criminal Justice Reform Coalition
138. New York Jewish Agenda
139. New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
140. New York State Association of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers (ASAP)
141. New York State Association of Counties
142. New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
143. New York State Defenders Association
144. New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
145. New York State Council of Churches
146. North Bronx Racial Justice
147. NY Justice League
148. NYU Black Allied Law Students Association (BALSA)
149. Office of the Appellate Defender (NYC)
150. Omo Obatala Egbe, Inc.
151. Onondaga County Bar Association Assigned Counsel Program
152. Ontario County Office of the Conflict Defender
153. Ontario County Public Defender's Office
154. Opportunities, Alternatives & Resources (Tompkins County)
155. Osborne Association (NYC)
156. Our Wellness Collective (Capitol Region)
157. Partnership for the Public Good (Buffalo)
158. Party for Socialism and Liberation - Syracuse
159. Party for Socialism and Liberation - Geneva
160. Peaceprints of Western New York
161. Plymouth Church (Brooklyn)
162. Police Reform Organizing Project (PROP)
163. Presbytery of New York City
164. Prison Families Anonymous
165. Recess (Brooklyn)
166. ReEntry Columbia (Hudson)

167. REFORM Alliance (National)
168. Repair the World
169. Repeal #WalkingWhile Trans Coaliton
170. Rikers Debate Project
171. Riverside Church
172. Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
173. Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative
174. Rockland Coalition to End the New Jim Crow
175. S.O.U.L. Sisters Leadership Collective
176. SAJ (NYC)
177. Sankofa (national)
178. Second Chance Educational Alliance, Inc.
179. Second Chance Reentry, Inc (Nassau)
180. Southern Tier Independence Center
181. St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction
182. St. Luke Baptist Church (Harlem)
183. St. Matthews Baptist Church (Harlem)
184. STEPS to End Family Violence - Rising Ground (NYC)
185. Syracuse Immigrant and Refugee Defense Network
186. Syracuse Peace Council
187. Tompkins County Assigned Counsel Program
188. Trellis Community Development (Brooklyn)
189. Truth Pharm (Binghamton)
190. T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
191. Unchained (Syracuse)
192. United Christian Leadership Ministry (UCLM) of Western New York, Inc.
193. United Freedom Coalition
194. United Neighborhood Houses
195. United Voices of Cortland
196. Union Settlement
197. Uptown Progressive Action
198. Urban Justice Center
199. Urban Youth Alliance International, Inc/Bronx Connect
200. Uri L'Tzedek
201. Voices of Community Activists and Leaders (VOCAL-NY)
202. Wayne County Public Defender's Office
203. Welcome Home Circle (Akwasasnee Nation)
204. WESPAC
205. West End Synagogue
206. West Harlem Progressive Democratic Club
207. Westchester Coalition for Police Reform
208. Westchester for Change
209. Witness to Mass Incarceration (NYC)
210. Women's Community Justice Association
211. Woodhull Freedom Foundation
212. Workers' Center of Central New York
213. Worth Rises
214. Wyoming County Public Defender
215. Yonkers Writing Group
216. Youth Represent
217. Zioness Movement

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

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**The #LessIsMoreNY Campaign is coordinated by
Unchained (Syracuse), A Little Piece of Light (NYC), and Katal Center for Equity,
Health, and Justice (NYC, Capitol Region).**