



NYSACDL
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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

NYS Chief Defenders, NYS Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and NYS Defenders Association Decry Governor Hochul's Proposed Regressive Changes to Bail, Discovery and Speedy Trial Reforms, and Raise The Age

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Chief Defenders Association of New York, New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the New York State Defenders Association issued the following joint statement in response to Governor Hochul's proposed regressive changes to bail, discovery and speedy trial reforms, and Raise The Age:

"For decades, New York's punitive pretrial laws and its approach to prosecuting children fed mass incarceration, ballooning both jail and prison populations to historic levels while failing to advance public safety.

Albany was right to overhaul these laws, which stood as national outliers, starkly inconsistent with our State's assertion that New York was a bastion for progressive policies.

Since these reforms were ushered in, thousands of New Yorkers have not had to languish for months or years in a cage before any conviction, been forced to take a plea without any meaningful opportunity to examine the evidence against them, nor been tried for crimes without any consideration of their age or level of development. Through these laws, New York has made progress towards racial justice and greater fairness in our criminal legal system.

Governor Hochul's wrongheaded proposal should be summarily rejected both because of the substance and the manner in which this was presented - two weeks before the budget deadline without any transparency or time to hear differing points of view. The Legislature must keep their promise of a just and equitable system. They must stand by these reforms that were long deserved."

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