

ALLIANCE TO PROTECT
Kalief's Law

March 26, 2025

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*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

Lawmakers to Hold Press Conference in Support of New York's Successful, Modernized Discovery Statute

District Attorneys, Police Departments Must Utilize Funding to Hire Staff, Upgrade Technology to Assist with Discovery Compliance

Governor Hochul's Proposal to Repeal Discovery Reform Will Lead to Wrongful Convictions, Coerced Pleas, Increased Jail Populations, and Case Delays

(ALBANY, NY) - **New York State Senators and New York State Assembly Members** will hold a press conference on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 10:00 AM in the New York State Capitol Building, 4th Floor Gallery, Senate Side, in support of New York's widely successful and modernized discovery statute.

WHAT: Press conference with lawmakers in support of New York's successful and modernized discovery statute

WHO: Senator Cordell Cleare, Senator Julia Salazar, Senator Gustavo Rivera, Assembly Member Latrice Walker, Assembly Member Gabriella Romero, Assembly Member Pharra Soufrant Forrest, Assembly Member Khaleel Anderson, Assembly Member Anna Kelles, Assembly Member Jordan Wright, Assembly Member Emily Gallagher, Assembly Member Harvey Epstein, Assembly Member Chris Burdick, Assembly Member Jo Anne Simon, Assembly Member Claire Valdez, and more.

WHEN: Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 10:00 AM

WHERE: New York State Capitol Building, 4th Floor Gallery, Senate Side

Background

In the FY2025 Executive Budget, Governor Hochul proposed sweeping changes to New York's discovery statute, which would represent a wholesale repeal of the state's common-sense evidence sharing laws. Enacted in 2019, New York's discovery statute created a fairer evidence sharing system by ensuring prosecutors provide people accused of crimes with early, open, and complete discovery in their cases.

Before the enactment of this reform, the law allowed police and prosecutors to withhold evidence until the eve of trial, keeping New Yorkers and their defense attorneys in the dark, unable to investigate, prepare a defense, or make informed decisions about their case. This contributed to the state's high rate of wrongful convictions, coerced pleas, and prolonged pretrial incarceration.

The Governor's proposal threatens to send New York back to the era of the "Blindfold Law." The proposal, mischaracterized as mere "tweaks" to "close loopholes," would gut the law, ending open file discovery, allowing police and prosecutors to withhold evidence, and removing accountability from the system. The Alliance to Protect Kalief's Law is a statewide coalition that was founded to defend New York's successful discovery statute, known as Kalief's Law.

Go to www.protectkaliefslaw.com for the facts about New York's landmark discovery law.

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