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

Over 100 Organizations from Across New York State Call on Legislative Leaders to Continue to Reject Governor Hochul's Proposed Rollbacks to New York's Landmark Criminal Discovery Laws

(NEW YORK, NY) – [100 organizations from across New York State](#) thanked State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie for their opposition to Governor Kathy Hochul's proposed repeal of New York's landmark criminal discovery laws and called on them to continue to oppose the repeal as budget negotiations commence.

Despite claims that the Governor's proposal would merely amend the 2020 law, the proposal would, in reality, eliminate incentives for police and prosecutors to disclose evidence to the accused and strip judges of the authority to enforce compliance with the law. As a result, it would effectively repeal the 2020 reforms while increasing the potential for coerced plea agreements, prolonged pretrial detention, and wrongful convictions.

Some of the signatories include public and private defense organizations and firms from across the state, as well as the New York State Chapter of the NAACP, the Law Enforcement Action Partnership, VOICE Buffalo, VOCAL-NY, the New York State Council on Churches, the New York State Working Families Party, Citizen Action, UAW Region 9A, the NYCLU, the National Association of Public Defenders, the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, Human Rights Watch, and the Pretrial Justice Institute.

The letter states:

We, the undersigned 100 plus organizations, write to express our gratitude for your leadership in opposition to the entirety of Part B of the Executive Proposal within the Public Protection and General Government legislation. This sweeping proposal will effectively repeal our landmark discovery law, decimating fundamental fairness and due process while reducing efficiency in the courts and increasing the likelihood of wrongful convictions.

The Governor's proposal would give total control back to the prosecutors to decide what evidence is "relevant to the charge" and what evidence may be withheld from the person accused of a crime. It would enable the police to hide misconduct and exculpatory evidence. Prosecutors will be absolved of any responsibility to diligently obtain all this evidence, depriving New Yorkers accused of crimes of due process, prompt resolution of cases, and fairness. It would increase motion practice, further extending the length of a case and, when a person is unable to afford bail, the length of time spent in pre-trial detention.

Read the full letter [here](#).

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