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

The Coalition to Protect Raise The Age: Build Futures, Invest In Youth to Hold Rally in Support of Raise the Age Following Governor Hochul's State of the State Address

Speakers Will Include Former Law Enforcement, Elected Officials, Youth, Advocates, and Impacted New Yorkers

Albany Must Streamline Access to \$1 Billion Tied Up to Support Raise the Age, Pass the Youth Justice Innovation Fund

Watch The Livestream [Here](#)

(CITY HALL, NY) — [The Coalition to Protect Raise The Age: Build Futures, Invest in Youth](#), former law enforcement, elected officials, youth, advocates, and impacted New Yorkers will hold a rally and press conference on the steps of City Hall on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 10:30 AM in response to Governor Hochul's State of the State address.

The Coalition, representing more than 220 organizations from across the state, is committed to preserving New York's landmark Raise the Age law, combating misinformation, and promoting investments in youth that deliver true community safety statewide.

The Coalition will call on lawmakers to reject any effort to roll back Raise the Age and instead ensure the law's full implementation by streamlining access to [\\$1 billion in unspent state funds](#). These dollars have been allocated year after year and were promised to build the community-based programs, counseling, mentoring, and a continuum of services for youth that make accountability meaningful and lasting. New York must allow these investments to take root to strengthen youth opportunity and public safety, rather than turning back the clock on progress. Evidence shows that community-based programs and services for young people who have contact with the police are among the most effective ways to promote community safety.

Attendees will also demand the adoption of the [Youth Justice Innovation Fund](#). This year's budget must include additional pathways for unspent state dollars to reach counties and community-based organizations. Every county must have a continuum of services that includes prevention, early intervention, and alternatives to detention, placement, and incarceration.

WHO: The Coalition to Protect Raise The Age, NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, former NYC Department of Probation Deputy Commissioner of Juvenile Operations Gineen Gray, Council Member Nantasha Williams, elected officials, youth, and impacted New Yorkers

WHAT: Coalition press conference in response to Governor Hochul's State of the State address

WHEN: Wednesday, January 14, 2026, from 10:30 AM — 11:30 AM

WHERE: Steps of City Hall, downtown Manhattan

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