



About the Real Reform New York Coalition

Founded in April 2004, the Real Reform New York Coalition is committed to replacing the current inhumane, ineffective and wasteful Rockefeller Drug Laws with cost-effective, just, and community-based alternatives. Real Reform New York is made up of dozens of organizations representing thousands of community members, activists, advocates, policy and treatment experts, and Rockefeller Drug Law survivors and their friends and families. We are the peoples' movement for *real* Rockefeller reform, and we are united because we are the people who have the most to gain from real reform.

Real Reform New York defines real reform as:

1. **Reducing sentences** to levels proportionate to those for other nonviolent crimes, and to bring New York into line with national standards.
2. **Restoring judicial discretion** so judges can fashion just sentences based on consideration of the particular case and, when appropriate, sentence low-level offenders to community-based treatment.
3. **Delivering retroactive sentencing relief** to currently incarcerated Rockefeller inmates serving unjustly long sentences.
4. **Expanding drug treatment programs** and other alternatives to incarceration for diverted low-level offenders.

The work of Real Reform New York is to (a) continue building a strong, vibrant movement for real reform of the Rockefeller Drug Laws; (b) closely monitor the legislative process as it develops, clarifying whether or not Rockefeller Drug Law related legislation meets the tests for real reform; and (c) support those members of the legislature (on both sides of the aisle) who are friends and advocates of real reform.

Over the last 30 years policymakers across the country have passed tough sentencing laws that criminalize drug addiction instead of treating it as a health issue, creating an institutional nightmare of mass-incarceration. More than 500,000 people will spend the night in a prison or jail tonight due to a drug conviction, costing Americans billions of dollars a year. The Rockefeller Drug Laws, passed in 1973, were among the first such laws and remain some of the harshest in the nation.

Real Reform New York intends to “turn the tide” against these failed, destructive laws.