



Campaign Talking Points

The Rockefeller era drug laws have caused tremendous damage to the people and state of New York. They've forced the incarceration of tens of thousands of nonviolent individuals who use or sell small amounts of drugs. Thousands of those imprisoned under these laws serve longer sentences than those who commit murder or rape. **These laws are extremely wasteful of invaluable financial and human resources, they deprive children of their parents, and they fail to effectively address the addiction underlying most drug offenses.**

Additionally, it is well documented that these drug laws have a horrific impact on communities of color. **Despite the fact that their rates of drug use are similar to those of whites, Latinos and African Americans make up over 92% of the drug offenders in New York State prisons.**

Treatment programs are proven to be less expensive than prisons and more effective at helping people turn their lives around. New York can promote public safety *and* provide sensible, cost-effective alternatives to prison for people convicted of drug offenses. New York needs to stop wasting money locking up people who don't need to be in prison. **Judges need to have discretion to make decisions based on the particular circumstances of each case. By enacting real reform, New York can redirect millions of tax dollars into investing in education, treatment, and health care.** Now is the time to support sensible legislation which protects our communities, saves money, and helps break the cycle of addiction.

Support the Four Pillars of Real Reform:

- 1. Reduce Sentences**
- 2. Restore Judicial Discretion**
- 3. Deliver Retroactive Sentencing Relief**
- 4. Expand Drug Treatment Programs**