

**PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Criminal Justice and Immigration Advocates Join Together to Demand Gov. Cuomo and Lawmakers Protect Bail Reform, Pass Justice Roadmap**

*Ahead of Annual Public Protection Budget Hearing, Advocates Called on State Senate and Assembly to Pass Additional Legislation to Protect Immigrants and End Mass Criminalization*

**Albany, NY – February 12, 2020** – State lawmakers and advocacy organizations held a press conference at the New York State Capitol in Albany on Wednesday, February 12th ahead of the state legislature’s public protection budget hearing.

The coalition of New York criminal justice and immigration advocates gathered to oppose any rollbacks or regressive changes to the bail and discovery laws and demanded legislators adopt the [Justice Roadmap](#): a slate of bills that will address the harms caused by unaccountable over-policing, the separation of families, inhumane treatment, and a lack of due process protections. Advocates made clear that they refuse to allow issues of justice to be used as bargaining chips against one another in budget negotiations and called on lawmakers to take further steps for justice.

**Stanley Fritz, Political Director of Citizen Action of New York said**, “We don’t need legislators in New York to just get re-elected. We need them in Albany to do the right thing. No rollbacks on bail. We need the HALT solitary confinement, to release aging people from prison, repeal 50-A, and more.”

**Assembly Member Catalina Cruz (AD-39) said**, “We’re asking during the budget hearing today that our colleagues ask the critical questions of the administration and hear advocates’ voices. My commitment is for absolutely no rollbacks on bail and to move forward until we actually get this roadmap.”

**Assembly Member Harvey Epstein (AD-74) said**, “If we look at the facts, we know that bail reform is working. We can prove that bail reform works for the families of New York. Let’s stand firm. My colleagues and I in the Assembly will stand firm on this.”

**Jose Saldana, Director of the Release Aging People in Prison Campaign said**, “Some of my mentors remain in prison and should have been walking out with me when I was released. They’ll die behind bars unless lawmakers pass Elder Parole and the Fair and Timely Parole Act.”

**Rosa Cohen-Cruz of the Bronx Defenders said**, “No one should have to worry about whether or not ICE is going to arrest them at the courthouse. We need to pass the Protect Our Courts Act. We stand in full support of the Justice Roadmap.”

**Anne Oredeko from the Legal Aid Society's Racial Justice Unit said,** "Our Justice Roadmap needs to be fulfilled. Our Senate, Assembly, and the governor need to step up. If they don't, we'll remember. Our memories are long and we are strong."

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