



DETECTIVES' ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
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The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of the State of New York
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

September 2, 2025

***Re: Urgent Need to Strengthen Bail Reform Laws
to Protect Detectives and All Police Officers***

Dear Governor Hochul,

On behalf of the nearly 21,000 active and retired members of the Detectives' Endowment Association, Inc., I write to you with deep concern and urgency regarding the public-safety crisis created by New York State's bail reform laws.

As the representative of the Detectives who serve on the front lines of protecting our citizens, I must stress that these laws are endangering not only the communities we serve, but also the very lives of the men and women sworn to defend them.

Just last week, Detective Corey Fisher of the NYPD was seriously injured in a "friendly fire" incident while responding to a violent robbery in Queens. That tragedy only occurred because the 28-year-old suspect — a career criminal with more than 20 prior arrests, including violent offenses — was free to commit yet another crime. The day before the robbery, he had been arrested for fare evasion in the subway. Under previous law, this arrest could have warranted detention. Instead, current bail mandates required his release with a desk appearance ticket. Less than 24 hours later, his actions set in motion a violent confrontation that left Det. Fisher seriously wounded.

Det. Fisher's case is not an isolated one. It is a stark example of what happens when repeat offenders are repeatedly cycled back onto the streets without consequence. Detectives and Police Officers across New York City and the entire State are placed in an untenable position: risking their lives to apprehend violent offenders, only to see those same offenders quickly released under laws that prioritize expediency over safety.

Governor, we recognize that New York's criminal justice system was not perfect prior to bail reform, and that many of the reforms enacted in 2019 — before your administration — were well-intentioned. We also acknowledge that since becoming Governor, you have made important changes to restore some judicial discretion and address concerns raised by law enforcement and the public.

THE POLICE UNION REPRESENTING "THE GREATEST DETECTIVES IN THE WORLD"
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POLICE CONFERENCE OF NEW YORK, INC. (PCNY)



But despite those efforts, the framework remains insufficient. Judges still lack the clear authority to fully weigh an offender's criminal history and demonstrated risk to public safety when making bail determinations.

We urge you to work with legislative leaders to enact immediate changes to bail reform that will:

- Expand judicial discretion by explicitly allowing judges to weigh a defendant's prior criminal history, pattern of reoffending, and the threat posed to the community in all bail determinations.
- Close dangerous loopholes that force the automatic release of repeat offenders for so-called "minor" charges, even when those charges are part of a clear and escalating pattern of criminal behavior.
- Reinforce accountability and deterrence so that violent and repeat offenders cannot continue to exploit the gaps in the current law.

Detectives do not ask for unnecessary hardship on those accused of crimes, but we demand that common sense prevail. The laws as written continue to create a revolving door of criminality — one that emboldens offenders and leaves Police Officers and civilians vulnerable. The shooting of Detective Fisher — a husband, father, and dedicated public servant — should serve as a tragic reminder that urgent legislative action is required.

The Detectives' Endowment Association is prepared to work with you and lawmakers in good faith to craft meaningful solutions that restore accountability while upholding fairness. But, delay only increases the likelihood that more Officers and innocent New Yorkers will suffer harm at the hands of repeat offenders.

Governor Hochul, we call on you to lead. Stand with Detectives, stand with all Police Officers, and stand with the people of New York by strengthening these laws before more lives are put at risk.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Scott Munro", written in a cursive style.

Scott Munro
President