



# LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION PARTNERSHIP

ADVANCING JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS

121 Mystic Avenue, Suite 9  
Medford, Massachusetts 02155  
T: (781) 393.6985

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lieutenant Diane Goldstein, Ret.  
Nevada, USA

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deputy Chief Wayne Harris, Ret.  
Chair, New York, USA

Major Neill Franklin, Ret.  
Treasurer, Florida, USA

Professor Jody Armour  
Secretary, California, USA

Sergeant Terry Blevins, Fmr.  
California, USA

Asst. State's Attorney Inge Fryklund, Fmr.  
Oregon, USA

Mr. Stephen Gutwillig  
California, USA

Captain Leigh Maddox, Ret.  
Maryland, USA

Captain Sonia Y.W. Pruitt, Ret.  
Maryland, USA

Superintendent Richard N. Van Wickler, Ret.  
New Hampshire, USA

Detective Sergeant Neil Woods, Ret.  
Derbyshire, England, LEAP UK

September 29, 2021

The Honorable Kathleen C. Hochul  
Governor of New York State

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
New York Senate President Pro Tempore & Majority Leader

The Honorable Carl Heastie  
Speaker of the New York State Assembly

Dear Governor Hochul, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker  
Heastie:

As law enforcement representatives from across New York State, we would like to thank the Senate Majority Leader and Speaker for successfully passing the amended [Less is More: Community Supervision Revocation Reform Act \(S.1144A – Benjamin / A.5576A – Forrest\)](#). We believe this bill will improve public safety by allowing our state to focus correctional and supervision resources on the greatest threats to safety and removing barriers that prevent people from re-entering society as productive citizens. First, we want to thank Governor Hochul for signing the bill. Now that the bill has become law, we respectfully request that Governor Hochul implement the law in full as soon as possible.

We have seen firsthand that our justice system is flooded with individuals who pose little threat to public safety, preventing us from swiftly and effectively handling higher-priority cases. Our state incarcerates more people for technical parole violations than any other state in the nation. About 7,500 people on parole end up back in New York prisons each year for minor misconduct. Our 40% prison reincarceration rate for people convicted of technical (non-criminal) violations is almost three times the national average.

The Less is More bill will make several important changes that will improve our allocation of resources.

First, it would remove low-risk cases from the caseload of parole officers, allowing them to focus on the individuals who require the most

**LawEnforcementActionPartnership.org**

*Formerly known as Law Enforcement Against Prohibition*

supervision. It would incentivize people on parole to meet all the

requirements of their supervision by rewarding them with early termination for a spotless record.

Second, it would reduce unnecessary incarceration related to parole violations. It would stop incarceration for specific technical violations, which are non-criminal issues like missing curfew or failing to pay fees. It would stop filling jails with people who are simply waiting for a parole violation hearing, and with people who are reincarcerated because they cannot afford a lawyer. And it would prevent excessive terms of reincarceration for minor violations.

Finally, it would improve community trust in our justice system by addressing a policy that falls heaviest on people of color. Black people are incarcerated for technical violations at twelve times the rate of white people in New York City and almost five times the rate of white people statewide. Law enforcement can only prevent and solve crime when community members will speak to us, and these racial disparities destroy the trust we require to obtain information in communities of color.

The Less is More Act has significant law enforcement support across the state, including district attorneys, police, and county sheriffs, current and former corrections, parole, and probation commissioners, and the former Chief Judge of the State of New York. It is also projected to save hundreds of millions of dollars in state and county funds.

We are grateful for your leadership on improving our criminal justice system. Signing the Less Is More Act into law will demonstrate once again that New York State's elected leaders are ready to lead in protecting public safety and restoring community trust.

Respectfully,

Chief Brendan Cox (Ret.)  
Albany Police Department, NY

Deputy Chief Wayne Harris (Ret.)  
Rochester Police Department, NY