



Envision Freedom Fund

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## ENVISION FREEDOM OPPOSES NEW YORK STATE SENATE'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO BAIL REFORM LAWS

**NEW YORK, NY** — Following [news](#) of the New York State Senate's draft proposal in response to Governor Kathy Hochul's plan to expand bail eligibility in New York State, Envision Freedom Fund Executive Director Carl Hamad-Lipscombe issued the following statement:

"Today I am thinking of the Black, brown, immigrant, and low-income New Yorkers who will suffer most if New York State legislators continue on this misguided path to subject thousands more to bail and pretrial jailing and the destabilizing effects and trauma that come with it. The proposals made by the Governor and the "compromises" put forth by the Senate are not "tweaks" or "fixes." They will completely reverse the progress we've made to address inequities and inhumanity of the criminal legal system.

"I am thinking of the man court watchers observed being arraigned in Brooklyn last month, accused of stealing two bottles of whiskey and then saddled with a \$25,000 bond or \$7,500 cash bail. Already, judges disregard whether accused people can afford bail, so we have every reason to expect more people will go to jail pretrial under the Governor's plan and the Senate's.

"It's clear lawmakers are exploiting legitimate public concern and a shared desire for safety to completely gut bail reform, which they agree has not contributed to incidents of violence. We need them to think of their constituents in arraignment courts, at Rikers, in county jails across the state; people like Kalief Browder, Layleen Polanco, George Pagan and many others who have lost their lives because of bail and pretrial detention."

**Envision Freedom Fund (formerly Brooklyn Community Bail Fund)** works alongside impacted communities to dismantle the oppressive and interconnected criminal legal and immigration systems. With freedom as our guiding principle, we invest in innovative campaigns and programs that aim to win long-term, transformative change, while meeting the urgent needs of community members in the present.

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