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In Support:
Governor Cuomo moves to improve standards and increase transparency in the bail bond industry.

New York, NY

Governor Cuomo’s efforts to improve standards and increase transparency in the bail bond industry is a step in the right direction toward decreasing unjust incarceration in New York State. Nationwide, 60% of women in jail have not been convicted of a crime. They are jailed because they cannot afford bail. This, like many other factors that relate to systems involvement, is a problem especially unique to women. Women experience more poverty, lower employment rates, and have fewer safe housing options than men before and after incarceration. Beyond improved standards and increased transparency, the Women’s Prison Association (WPA) supports the elimination of cash bail to support women. Elimination of cash bail would ensure that women are less likely to suffer disproportionately at the hands of the legal system and should be replaced with alternative programs that improve public safety in the community and without the use of jail or prison.

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ABOUT WPA

The Women’s Prison Association (WPA), founded in 1845, is a service and advocacy organization committed to helping women with criminal justice histories realize new possibilities for themselves and their families. Our services make it possible for women to obtain work, housing, and health care; to rebuild their families; and to participate in law-abiding lives within the community. Each year, WPA provides services to 1,500 women and 500 children.

WPA operates from three community sites in Manhattan and Brooklyn, as well as prison- and jail-based offices in Bedford and Taconic Correctional Facilities, and Rikers Island. WPA works with women at all stages of involvement with the criminal legal system. We promote alternatives to incarceration and help women avoid arrest or incarceration by making positive changes in their lives. Inside prison and jail, we are a source of support to women and a resource to them as they plan for release. After incarceration, women come to WPA for help to build the lives they want for themselves and their families in the community.

Learn more at www.wpaonline.org.