

Subject: Requested Signatures for Time Sensitive Letters on Criminal Justice and Immigration Reform

Date: Fri, 01 Feb 2019 17:58:52 +0000 (UTC)

From: New York State Council of Churches <office@nyscoc.org>

Reply-To: office@nyscoc.org

To: office@nyscoc.org

Dear Helen,

Legislation is moving very quickly through the state legislature on issues related to immigrants and criminal justice reform. In this spirit, I invite your immediate attention to two sign on letters and ask for your signature as the Council weighs into these critical policy debates.

Bail, Discovery and Speedy Trial Reform
Deadline is February 3, 2019

By Monday morning, February 4, we will deliver our letter on elimination of cash bail, speedy trial and discovery reform. We ask you to sign if you have not already. This is a general letter focused on principles and process which is addressed to all parties involved in reconciling differences between the Governor's, the Assembly's and the Senate's respective bills. This letter is intended to complement the efforts of both the Katal Center and #FREENewYork. The negotiations are beginning this weekend so sign quickly if you have not already. [Click here](#) to read and sign our letter and to also see the updated #FREENewYork open letter to the Governor and the Katal Center Principles.

For further commentary on these complex negotiations, click here to see a [commentary by the Gotham Gazette](#). From our perspective, all parties need to stay focused on the goal of dramatically dropping the number of people who are incarcerated pre-trial and look very carefully at changing details in the bills which might unintentionally incarcerating many more people than what was intended. Drivers Licenses for All and the Separation of Children Accountability Response Act

[Sign on Now!](#) Deadline is February 11, 2019

The New York State Council of Churches is joining MICAH, Interfaith Center of New York. Rural & Migrant Migrant Ministry, Union Seminary and the New Sanctuary Coalition to sponsor a sign on letter in support of the driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants and Separation of Children Accountability Response Act – the SCAR Act.

The Driver's Licenses for All bills (A. 10273 introduced by Assemblyman Crespo) and S. 0868 introduced by Senator Sepulveda) - would allow access to driver's

licenses for all qualified drivers, regardless of immigrant status, allowing those who live in transit deserts and rural parts of New York State access to supermarkets, doctor appointments, schools and other basic services. The Separation of Children Accountability Response Act – the SCAR Act – (A. 1436 introduced by Assemblyman Epstein and S.222 introduced by Senator Benjamin) would require immigrant holding centers throughout the state to provide information to the State Legislature about the condition of youth being held, so advocates and policy makers will have the information they need to ensure that their needs are being met.

We have a little over a week to collect as many signatures as possible. Please [click here](#) to sign on. The deadline for signatures is February 11.
In Faith,

+Peter Cook
Executive Director
New York State Council of Churches