

# Treatment Not Jail

S.1976B - RAMOS / A.1263B - FORREST (2023/24 bill numbers)



We cannot rely on our jails and prisons to address New York's mental health crisis - we need community-based treatment, not jail!

## NEW YORK IS IN THE MIDST OF A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

Every year



**1 OUT OF EVERY 5  
NEW YORKERS HAS  
SYMPTOMS OF A MENTAL  
DISORDER**

Yet thousands go without needed medical care

## JAILING PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS DOESN'T MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER OR HEALTHIER

**1/2**

**HALF THE PEOPLE IN JAILS  
AND PRISONS HAVE  
MENTAL ILLNESS  
DIAGNOSES**

New York's jails and prisons house more people with mental illness than any psychiatric hospital in the country.

People emerge from incarceration even more destabilized and traumatized, and are more likely to be re-arrested or imprisoned in the future - not less.

## EVERY COUNTY IN NEW YORK SHOULD HAVE A MENTAL HEALTH COURT



NY created drug courts in every county in 2009. Yet New York has not updated this law to include people with mental health, cognitive and intellectual diagnoses. The law should be updated to reflect best practices - and mental health treatment courts should exist, by law, in every county across the state.

**MENTAL HEALTH COURTS CURRENTLY ONLY EXIST IN COUNTIES WITH RESOURCES TO CREATE THEM**

## NEW YORK IS NOT INVESTING IN WHAT ACTUALLY WORKS TO ADDRESS CRIME, MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE USE



THE AVERAGE COUNTY IN  
NY STATE  
**SPENDS 2X  
THE \$\$\$  
ON JAIL VERSUS ON PUBLIC  
HEALTH**

NYC SPENDS  
**OVER \$500,000  
TO INCARCERATE ONE PERSON  
PER YEAR**  
(over \$1,500 DAILY FOR EACH PERSON)

This could pay for 38 years worth of groceries for a family of four in New York State.



# THE SOLUTION = TREATMENT NOT JAIL

## TNJ RECOGNIZES THAT HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ARE SAFE COMMUNITIES

TNJ gives courts the tools and resources to address root causes rather than relying solely on incarceration to address public safety concerns. This allows people to return to their communities healthier and more resilient.

## TNJ REDUCES CRIME & MAKES OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER

MENTAL HEALTH AND DRUG TREATMENT COURTS LOWER REARREST RATES BY

**50%**

## TNJ CREATES OPPORUNITIES FOR ALL NEW YORKERS

TNJ provides fair access to drug and mental health courts statewide, supporting community investments across NY, in every single county.

## CRIME VICTIMS NATIONALLY OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORT TREATMENT OVER INCARCERATION

By a margin of **3 to 1**, victims prefer holding people accountable through options beyond just prison, such as rehabilitation, mental health treatment, drug treatment, community supervision, or community service.

## TNJ SAVES DOLLARS AND MAKES SENSE

**EVERY \$1 INVESTED IN TREATMENT COURTS SAVES THE STATE \$2.21**

Treatment courts grow quarterly employment rates by nearly 50% over 10 years.

options beyond prison

prisons and jails



TNJ has bipartisan support and has been endorsed by dozens of organizations, including mental health professionals and peers, current and retired law enforcement, and faith leaders.

### SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS



**GET INVOLVED!**

Tell your New State Legislators to support Treatment Not Jail

To learn more or get involved:  
[www.treatmentnotjail.com](http://www.treatmentnotjail.com)

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