



November 20, 2020

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of the State of New York  
Executive Chamber, State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12248

Re: **Central Park Five Bill** (S6533 Montgomery/A7970 Frontus) Relates to requiring the video recording of interrogations of juveniles in juvenile delinquency proceedings.

Dear Governor Cuomo,

We are writing to respectfully request your immediate consideration of our bill, **The Central Park 5 Bill** which relates to requiring the video recording of interrogations of juveniles in juvenile delinquency proceedings.

**The intent of this bill is to address situations where teenagers are subjected to un-recorded interrogation tactics which lead to false, coerced confessions. In far too many instances, this interrogation results in experiences like the Central Park 5, where young people spent decades in prison for a crime they did not commit.**

This bill would:

- Require the video recording of any juvenile subject to interrogation when taken into custody by a police officer without a warrant,
- Require the inclusion of the notice of the child's rights as well as the child's waiver of any of those rights, and
- A copy of the recording will be subject to discovery.

Requiring a transparent interrogation process will not only render false confessions and wrongful adjudications less likely, but will provide an objective basis for Family Court to evaluate the validity of a juveniles' waivers of rights as well as the substance of the statements themselves. I

have met with judges, District Attorneys and litigating attorneys from across the state who have supported this piece of legislation and reported their frequent experiences with cases involving disparities in testimony under current law.

**It is our contention that this is an important piece of legislation by creating a process that protects juveniles' statutory and constitutional rights within our criminal justice system.** It is important for us to provide justice for our young people and ensure that New York States response to children fosters development, and adequately addresses disparities in our youth justice system.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely Yours,



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Senator Velmanette Montgomery  
25<sup>th</sup> Senate District



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Assemblyman Mathylde Frontus  
46<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

cc: Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, New York State Senate  
Jamaal T. Bailey, Chair Codes  
Beth Garvey, Counsel to the Governor  
Melissa DeRosa, Secretary to the Governor  
Shontell Smith, Counsel and Chief of Staff to Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins  
Eric Katz, Deputy Counsel to Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins