

Friday, February 8, 2019

**MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT**

S.1716 (Bailey) /A.1431 (Lentol) – The 2019 Discovery for Justice Reform Act

It is only common sense that someone on trial for a crime should know exactly what they are accused of and what information the District Attorney has that makes them think so. In NYS common sense does not rule. Our State Prosecutors and Police are not required to provide crucial documents or information or evidence related to the case. That is like expecting a person to drink water without a cup.

[Prison Action Network] urges the Legislature and the Governor to use common sense and pass the Discovery for Justice Reform Act S.1716 (Bailey) /A.1431 (Lentol), which will repeal the current “Blindfold Law” and bring early, open, and automatic discovery to our criminal legal system.

Other states have showed common sense and made every piece of information available to the defendant, and at the beginning, not years after the jury has made its decision and it’s appealed.. No state has reversed this process. Prosecutors and defense attorneys alike in these states consistently say broad discovery works.

**We strongly urge you to pass this bill.**

Judith Brink, Director  
Prison Action Network