



Blakeman Blasts Hochul Move to Put Convicted Criminals on State Commission

Says Crime Victims — Not Criminals — Deserve a Seat at the Table

Nassau County Executive and presumptive Republican nominee for Governor of New York, Bruce Blakeman, today slammed Governor Kathy Hochul for “putting criminals first” as she expands the State Commission of Corrections to include at least one convicted criminal.

“Governor Hochul continues to put the interests of criminals ahead of law-abiding New Yorkers,” Blakeman said. “If the Commission of Correction is going to be expanded, the additional seat should go to a crime victim, not someone who broke the law.”

Under the Prison Reform Omnibus Bill Hochul signed (A8871/S8415), the New York State Commission of Correction grows to five members — three full-time and two part-time — with at least one commissioner required to have been “formerly incarcerated.” Blakeman called the idea offensive to victims and dangerous for public safety.

“Our corrections system should focus on accountability, safety, and justice for victims,” Blakeman said. “Crime victims know firsthand the real consequences of violent crime, repeat offenders, and a system that too often fails the public. Their voices deserve to be heard.”

Blakeman noted that this move is part of a broader failure on Hochul’s part when it comes to New York prisons. When corrections officers recently went on strike over unsafe working conditions, Hochul responded not by protecting staff or addressing safety concerns, but by releasing dangerous criminals back into the community to fill the gap.

“At a time when families are worried about crime in their neighborhoods, Hochul is doubling down on policies that send the wrong message,” Blakeman added. “New York needs leadership that stands with victims, supports law enforcement and corrections officers, and puts public safety first.”

Blakeman said that as governor, he would push to ensure corrections officers and crime victims have a formal role in shaping corrections policy and oversight.

“New Yorkers deserve a government that remembers who the real victims are,” Blakeman said. “I will always stand with them.”

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