

NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ISSUE OVERVIEW- JUNE 2023

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FEDERAL

Fiscal Responsibility Act

The Fiscal Responsibility Act cuts spending slightly, streamlines permitting for energy projects, makes some cuts to IRS enforcement funding passed in last year's Inflation Reduction Act, creates some new work-reporting requirements in SNAP and TANF and rescinds \$28 billion in unspent COVID money. The deal lifts the debt ceiling for two years and will not expire until after the 2024 elections. The government will run out of borrowing authority on June 5th and be unable to pay its bills so now the bill must pass both the House and Senate.

Here's [Analysis](#) from the *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities* of the bill. Here's the **GOP Promotion to their Membership**. Here's the **White House Talking Points** on the Deal.

From what the New York State Council is **reading** (Politico) the deal could have been MUCH worse. As the President said, the success of the deal should be measured by what was NOT included. Having said that, this deal could have been much better. We think it is important to understand the bills limitations. We invite you to watch this **overview on Democracy Now**.

1. West Virginian Pipeline Expansion

According to Democracy Now, "The deal also speeds up the approval and construction of the proposed \$6.6 billion Mountain Valley Pipeline in Virginia and West Virginia, which has been strongly backed by Democratic Senator Joe Manchin. The group Food & Water Watch condemned this provision, saying it will irreversibly scar Biden's legacy on the environment and clean energy. Virginia's Democratic Senator Tim Kaine introduced an amendment to strip the Mountain Valley Pipeline from the debt limit bill. The amendment failed. See advocacy push back from **Sunrise** and watch for statements from Food and Water Watch.

2. Work Requirements

While work requirements were thankfully turned back for Medicaid, Veterans and Homeless people, eligibility for TANF and SNAP for people without children increases from age 49 to 54. **Again, here is commentary on TANF and SNAP reductions from Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.**

3. Student Loans

The Biden Administration already announced this spring they would require resumption of student loan payments in the fall after multiple executive actions to postpone payments. However, now Congress requires it. There is uncertainty of whether or not the Supreme Court will uphold the Biden plan to forgive student debt up to \$20,000. If the Supreme Court says no,

the President's inability to longer be able to offer extensions on payment will no longer be a form of relief available to borrowers. The Senate and the House in a stand-alone bill voted to bar Biden from offering debt forgiveness. The President, however, will veto the measure and there are not enough votes in either chamber to override. All eyes now turn to the Supreme Court ruling.

4. IRS funding

IRS funding is cut by 20 billion over ten years which slows the agency's ability to recoup revenue from some very rich people who cheat on their taxes while undermining customer service improvements at the IRS

5. Military Increases

The military continues to get preferential treatment over domestic spending. Bishop William Barber of the Poor People's Campaign. said, "The great contradiction of this debt ceiling deal is that, while poverty is the fourth-leading cause of death, this deal will make it harder to get food stamps but easier to spend money on war."

Here is a statement from the National Council of Churches released on May 31 about the Fiscal Responsibility Act

The Debt Ceiling Compromise Does Not Go Far Enough to Protect Vulnerable People

The House has passed and the Senate is preparing to vote on an agreement between President Biden and House leadership to raise the debt ceiling to pay America's bills to avert a global financial crisis by June 5, 2023. The agreement is a considerable improvement from the previous threats to cut support from those who need it the most. However, it still falls short of the legislation that the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA had hoped for, one that reflects the full potential of America, and upholds the obligation that we as Christians have to care for the most vulnerable in society—those whom Jesus had in mind when he emphatically said, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me (Matthew 25:40 NRSVUE)."

The proposed compromise denies the IRS vital funding it needs to improve its ability to hold wealthy people who defraud the system accountable while weakening support systems of those who need help. NCC maintains that any legislation to raise the debt ceiling should not have extra conditions or cuts. We must honor the Imago Dei in each human being and preserve the integrity of safety net programs designed to help those in need.

In the weeks leading to this critical moment in our nation's history, we bore witness to the worst aspects of partisan politics. Inundated by the disgraceful rhetoric that cast blame on the poor and defenseless, America was exposed to political gamesmanship that brought us to the brink of financial catastrophe not seen in 247 years. Congress must not hold the American people hostage in future debt ceiling debates. There should be no cuts to safety-net programs that provide food,

health care, and housing for those in need to raise the debt ceiling, nor should burdensome eligibility requirements, such as time limits, be considered in debt ceiling legislation.

Congress jeopardized the lives of hundreds of millions of people—including families, children, seniors, and veterans—at risk of going hungry, losing access to healthcare, and foreclosing on their homes. The American people deserve better than this display of political maneuvering and toxic polarization.

NCC is committed to continue to hold Congress accountable for any future cuts to these essential programs.

VOTES

Passed the House 314 to 117 on May 31. NY Congressmembers voting yes:

- Republicans – D’Esposito, Garbarino, LaLota, Langworthy, Lawler, Malliotakis, Molinaro, Sefanik, Tenney, Williams
- Democrats – Higgins, Jeffries, Meeks, Morelle, Ryan, Tonko

NY Congressmembers voting no:

- Republicans -- Santos
- Democrats – Bowman, Clarke, Espaillat, Goldman, Meng, Nadler, Ocasio-Cortez, Torres, Velazquez

See article in City and State: <https://www.cityandstateny.com/politics/2023/05/where-do-new-york-members-congress-stand-debt-ceiling-deal/386977/>

Passed the Senate by a vote of 63 to 36. Both NY Senators voted yes.

Websites we Check Frequently for Analysis of Federal Issues

Center for Budget and Public Policy Priorities www.cbpp.org

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice <https://networklobby.org>

National Council of Churches, <https://nationalcouncilofchurches.us>

Your Denomination

New York State Council of Churches WWW.NYSCOC.ORG. Look at our Facebook page for news articles and Events updated daily. Subscribe to our mailing list.

To find contact information for your Congressperson (Email, Post, Twitter handle, phone number go to Open States. Ask to be on their mailing list. <https://openstates.org/>

Asylum Seeker Welcome

1. Encourage your County to lift Executive Orders and Welcome Migrants.

30 Counties in New York have issued emergency declarations to bar migrants from being housed in hotels and other public establishments. [City and State](#) updates status of welcome and non-welcome by county. Contact your county executive and/or go to county board meetings to ask that they reverse their emergency declarations. If they say the county is not ready ask how they can get ready. If your county executive is taking a more welcome posture ask how you can help with the welcome process.

Here is what advocates in Suffolk County sought to do:

***PLEASE TAKE ACTION** - tomorrow the Suffolk County Legislature is voting on a procedural motion to use taxpayer dollars to hire counsel as a way to block asylees from resettling on LI. Many legislators want to take **YOUR PUBLIC MONEY** and use it to wage their war of hate against asylees.*

*The voices of hate and xenophobia are especially loud right now, which makes it all the more important for **YOU** to be present and help drown them out.*

With this in mind, we have two more asks for you today:

*1. **Call your county legislator before tomorrow.** If you are unsure who your legislator is, use [this tool](#) to find out. When you call, feel free to use [this toolkit](#) as a guide.*

*2. **Show up tomorrow at the legislature** to witness and/or testify tomorrow by 8:45AM. The legislature is located at 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, NY 11787. (see above flier for details)*

Please flex your muscles as a community member and take action! Thank you and see you at the legislature!

2. Let them Work! Work authorizations

We urge you to please be in touch with Joe Biden and your congressperson and urge them to reduce the work authorization wait period for asylees from 180 days to 30 days. **40**

Assemblymembers sent a Letter to Pres. Biden Urging Expediting Work Authorization for Asylum Seekers. By definition, asylum seekers are fleeing persecution and harm, seeking safety and opportunity. We do, however, need federal financial assistance and action to ensure these newcomers can work, help fill workforce shortages, and provide for their families by expediting work authorization. Read more [here](#), and read the full letter [here](#). It is unclear whether this shortened work authorization will be voted on by Congress or if President Biden can declare a state of emergency.

3. Help group or groups in your county offering relief to migrants.

Contact the group or groups in your offering relief to migrants. Ask how your congregation can be of assistance. For example, here is some guidance for how congregations are being asked to be involved from Albany County

Greetings Capital District Border Watch and friends -

We are deeply heartened by the outpouring of support for our new neighbors. 33 people attended today's meeting to learn about how to welcome and help settle the asylum seekers who arrived over the weekend.

How to Help

Columbia County Sanctuary Movement (CCSM) is taking the lead in coordinating support for the recently arrived asylum seekers. A small team from CCSM worked tirelessly over the weekend as asylum seekers arrived and settled in. There are 40 men and women at a hotel in Albany and another 24 men at a hotel in Colonie. They are being housed and fed through contracts arranged by New York City. CCSM is doing intake and working with a team of local lawyers to meet initial needs. Mayor Sheehan and other local and state officials are also involved as are local refugee and immigrant organizations. It is expected that additional asylum seekers will be arriving in the weeks ahead.

We are excited that CCSM has stepped forward to play this important coordination role. They have five years of experience and great expertise in providing support to asylum seekers in the Capital Region and Hudson Valley. Please help us keep the asylum seekers safe and this process orderly by using the website to volunteer and make donations. There will be much help needed and we assure you that we need your energy and involvement now more than ever.

Please visit the CCSM website to make donations or to volunteer your time. The website is <https://www.sanctuarycolumbiacounty.org/> (<https://www.sanctuarycolumbiacounty.org/>). A colorful tab at the top indicates ASYLUM SEEKER SUPPORT. There is the opportunity to select volunteer your time, donate items, and fund the movement. If you are interested in volunteering, you will have an opportunity to let CCSM know what languages you speak and how your skills might best be used. You can let them know what you have that you would like to donate under the tab DONATE ITEMS. Under FUND THE MOVEMENT, you can select the fund that will support asylum seekers in the Albany area. Donations will be used collectively by organizations responding to meet current needs.

RISSE (Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus) is also collecting donations. The list below was provided by CCSM. Donations can be dropped off at RISSE (240 West Lawrence St., Albany) during office hours or left on their porch after hours. One option is to donate backpacks filled with personal items from the list. We expect to have more specific requests for individuals in the coming days.

Items Needed: Backpack, Folder, Pen, Know your rights - legal info, Socks, Clothing, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Shampoo, Soap, Deodorant, Lotion, Electrolytes, Snacks, Medicines (Advil, bandaids, women's hygiene)

Help Create a Welcoming Community

As Mayor Kathy Sheehan told the press, “Albany is a proud sanctuary city.” Please help educate your friends and community about the importance of offering a loving welcome to our new neighbors. As asylum seekers are moving to upstate communities, it is important for us to create welcoming conditions for them. New York Immigration Coalition offers some talking points (see attached PDF) to help dispel the myths and rhetoric about asylum seekers and to affirm their humanity and place in our communities. We can change hearts and minds by reaching out with our values and commitment to supporting asylum seekers and challenging the racism and stereotyping that foster division.

Rally to Welcome Asylum Seekers

Capital District Border Watch will be joining the New York Immigration Coalition and other organizations to plan a public welcome rally. We are currently anticipating that this event will take place on Tuesday, June 6th. We will send you another e-mail with time and location as soon as we know more.

Stay Connected

Join Capital District Border Watch for an update at our next meeting on Friday, June 9th at 4PM at the Albany Friends Meeting (727 Madison Avenue, Albany) Please spread this information widely. We need and welcome a continued outpouring of love and support over the months and weeks ahead.

Karen Beetle. Richard Horan, Capital District Border Watch

4. Review [NYSCOC 2023 Immigrant Rights Priorities for New York State](#)

5. Support pending state legislation which assists migrants:

- 1. Support New York for All.** This legislation will protect our vulnerable immigrant population by prohibiting state and local officers from colluding with ICE and CBP in the enforcement of immigration laws, will limit ICE and CBP access to state information databases, protect the rights of immigrants and asylum seekers, and will make our communities safer for everyone. During this final week of the legislative session let’s show our representatives that New Yorkers care about our immigrant sisters and brothers, and demand that they be treated humanely and justly. See New York ACLU’s website <https://www.nyclu.org/en/campaigns/new-york-all-act> to learn how you can act.
- 2. Pass Secure Wages Earned Against Theft (SWEAT) Bill** would allow workers to place a lien on the assets of an employer assets who steals their wages until the matter is resolved.

PHONEBANKING AND SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT FOR SWEAT

Thank you for taking action to pass SWEAT. Last week, we had a [Public Hearing on SWEAT](#) and many workers and others testified on the need for this bill. **We have until June 8!** We ask all supporters to:

(1) Call/contact key legislators + (2) Tweet your support!

#1) CALL/CONTACT KEY LEGISLATORS

Please join us in making these calls TODAY!

For non-sponsors (find constituents to make the calls!)

- Hi, My name is []. I live in the Senator's district. Wage theft is a huge problem. [Insert personal story about why you care about wage theft here if you want.] The SWEAT bill can help to stop wage theft by giving power back to workers. SWEAT will stop employers who hide from the law. Please speak up for this bill. Please vote to move SWEAT out of the Rules committee and onto the floor for a vote. Workers have been waiting for SWEAT for years and we need the Senator to be our champion now.

Name	District No	Albany No	Twitter Handle
Breslin, Neil (Albany)		518-455-2225	@neilbreslin44
Thomas, Kevin (Nassau)	516-739-1700	518-455-3260	@kevinthomasny
Mayer, Shelley (Westchester)	914-934-5250	518-455-2031	@shelleybmayer
Parker, Kevin (Flatbush)	718-629-6401	518-455-2580	@senatorparker
Addabbo, Joseph (Woodhaven)	718-738-1111	518-455-2322	@senjoeaddabbo
Stewart-Cousins, Andrea (Westchester)	914-423-4031	518-455-2585	@andreascousins

For sponsors

[If constituent - add: I live in the Senator's district.] I am calling to thank the Senator for being a strong supporter of the SWEAT bill. Now that we are in the last weeks of session, workers need the Senator's support more than ever. We need the Senator to speak out in conference on behalf of the bill. Workers need the Senator's support to move SWEAT out of the Rules committee and onto a floor vote. With the Senator's support, this is the year that SWEAT can finally become law.

Name	Albany No	District No	Twitter Handle
Fernandez, Nathalia	518-455-3595	718-822-2049	@Fernandez4NY
Comrie, Leroy	518-455-2701	718-454-0186	@leroycomrie
Gianaris, Michael	518-455-3486	718-728-0960	@sengianaris
Kennedy, Tim	518-455-2426	716-826-2683	@senkennedy
Bailey, Jamaal	518-455-2061	718-547-8854	@jamaaltbailey
Krueger, Liz	518-455-2297	212-490-9535	@LizKrueger
Liu, John	518-455-2210	718-765-6675	@liunewyork
Sepulveda, Luis	518-455-2511	718-991-0309	@luissepulvedany

#2) TWEET YOUR SUPPORT

Below is draft post you can use or adapt

Wage theft is rampant in New York. Around \$1 billion of wages are stolen from hard working New Yorkers each year. We must pass the SWEAT Act (A.46/S.1977) to give workers the necessary tools to fight against wage theft and to collect their stolen wages.

[SEE FULL TOOLKIT FOR MORE INFO ON SOCIAL MEDIA](#)

HOUSING

New York State has an amazingly large shortage of housing. 50% of our residents pay more than 30% of their income on housing. This statistic varies slightly up or down (but not by much) whether you live in a rural, suburban or urban part of the state.

1. All churches can pay attention to any project for affordable housing development proposed in their city or town which is seeking an approval from your zoning and planning boards. In general, new proposals face strong opposition from neighbors who resist building in their neighborhood. Board members also need to hear from their constituents who would benefit from this housing. Read your paper, talk to friends, and pay attention to what is on town board calendars then show up and speak out.
2. Ask your local officials what their plans are to expand the amount of affordable housing in your community? Many officials strongly resisted the Housing Compact proposed by Governor Hochul to require municipalities to expand the amounts of housing by 3% downstate and 1% upstate. Ask them to explain their opposition and then let them know you expect them to voluntarily change rules and zoning to make more construction possible and then work with Governor to get the Compact revised and passed in the 2024 legislative session. See [NYSCOC 2023 Housing Priorities for New York State](#)

3. If you think your property might be suitable to construct affordable housing call Rashida Tyler, Pre-Development Project Manager and we will discuss the possibilities

The New York Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act

The New York AFL-CIO, SEIU1199, the New York State Catholic Conference, the New York Council of Churches, New York AFSCME, Oxfam America, Bread for the World, Puerto Rico's religious leaders, Jubilee USA Network and African, Asian and Latin American Development Organizations are among hundreds of organizations supporting The New York Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act (S4747, A2970). Unions, religious bodies, diaspora groups and development organizations are leading the New York debt relief campaign in support of S4747 and A2970. They support this legislation to address inflation, high US food costs and the reality that developing countries need debt relief as quickly as possible.

Private creditors are not participating in debt relief for developing countries, even though the US government and other public counterparts participate. 52 percent of the world's private debt is governed under New York law. New York and US taxpayer money bails out private creditors when private creditors refuse to offer the same level of debt relief that the US government offers.

Because developing countries, our primary trading partners, are affected by debt crises heightened by the pandemic - the United States experience high inflation, supply shocks and rising food costs. The US and all countries are seeing the prices of eggs, flour and coffee rise. When developing economies suffer, the US and European economies suffer. The bill will address inflation, supply shocks and help reduce the costs of goods and food.

The New York Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act (S4747, A2970) introduced by Assemblymember Patricia Fahy and Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal, would require private creditors with debt contracts in New York to participate in debt relief at the same level as governments and other public creditors. This act quickly cuts and reduces unsustainable and unpayable debt. Thus, long-term investment, our pensions and poor communities are protected. The effectiveness of development aid is protected. Debt relief for developing countries means economic relief for all.

Support NYTIDA because it is one of those rare pieces of legislation that hits all the marks: The New York Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act is pro-people, pro-business, pro-labor, pro- United States, pro-investment and pro-planet.

Please write New York Governor Kathy Hochul to pass and sign the New York Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act (A2970, S4747).

If you live in New York, please write your Senator and Assemblymember and urge them to co-sponsor the New York Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act (A2970, S4747).

Asks:

For Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Senate Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins:

- Bring A2970/ S4747, The NY Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act to the floor, and cosponsor

For other Assemblymembers/ Senators:

- Cosponsor and pass A2970/ S4747, The NY Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act
- Ask Assembly Speaker/ Senate Leader to bring A2970/ S4747, The NY Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act to the floor
- In conference, speak in favor and fight for A2970/ S4747, The NY Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act

Why the bill should pass:

Protects the long-term performance of New Yorkers and US citizens' savings in pension funds and other institutional investors. By facilitating more efficient debt resolution for countries, the costs of debt crises come down and economic growth resumes more quickly. These effects also bring positive impacts on investments in domestic companies that do business with such countries.

Prevents taxpayer bailouts of private banks and creditors that lend to make a profit. The bill holds private creditors to the same debt settlements as received by governments and public institutions that fund their debt relief and loans to poor countries in crises with taxpayer money.

Secures deeper and more effective debt relief for developing countries. As these countries reduce the portion of their budgets that goes to debt payments, they free up savings to direct to education, health, food, poverty reduction and job-creation needed to protect their most vulnerable people, as well as investments in global challenges – climate, pandemics, etc – we all benefit from.

Protects real wages, jobs, remittances and the economy. Preventing and speeding up the resolution of debt crises in trading partner countries mitigates shocks that disrupt supply chains and raise inflation with impacts on New York, the US economy and consumers. Can help us bring down the costs of flour, eggs, coffee and fuel.

Supports global financial stability, which benefits New York as a preeminent world financial center. The bill ensures taxpayers are not alone in bearing the burden of resolving debt crises,

preventing the erosion of social support in creditor economies for international coordination on sovereign debt restructurings required to face market-destabilizing crises when they emerge.

Responses to objections:

1. The bill will hurt NY State's financial sector and disrupt financial markets

No. The bill supports global financial stability, essential to New York as a leading world financial center. By preventing taxpayer bailouts of private creditors, the bill prevents the erosion of support for international coordination on sovereign debt restructurings required to face market-destabilizing crises when they emerge.

Because the standards in the bill are already agreed by the US and all countries, the only market expectations affected are those of creditors that may have planned to exploit loopholes to free-ride – either on taxpayer-funded relief or that provided by other creditors. Otherwise, their risk was already factored in commercial rates and risk premia they charge.

2. S4747, if passed, will increase the cost of borrowing for sovereigns raising finance governed by NY law – including the very low income and IDA-eligible countries that the Bill purports to protect. This is because creditors holding NY law governed sovereign debt obligations will assume significant risk that these contractual claims will not be enforceable in accordance with their terms. This will make investments in sovereign debt less predictable and inherently more risky from the outset, increasing the cost of borrowing in the primary market for countries with the most limited resources.

The legislation does not imply substantive change to current risk profiles. Comparability is the rule now. Unless the creditors are suggesting their investment is predicated on an expectation of free-riding – either on taxpayer-funded relief or that provided by other creditors – the risk is factored in commercial rates and risk premia creditors already charge.

3. The uncertainty related to enforcement of sovereign debt contracts governed by NY law that would be created by the Bill will give a huge boost to financial centers (like London) which are competing with New York for sovereign business. The additional risk premium associated with sovereign borrowings governed by NY law will give a material advantage to English and other legal regimes that do not include such limitations on enforceability of contracts. We can expect to see a flight by debtors to such other jurisdictions, diminishing the hard-won status of NY as the leading global financial center and harming the NY financial services industry that relies on such business.

The bill preserves the primacy of New York as a leading financial jurisdiction. The premise that it would raise risk premia is not borne by facts, neither the alleged consequences. On the contrary, the bill gives creditors a certainty they currently lack that, when they participate in debt restructurings, no other creditor will get a better deal.

In the process leading up to UK legislation introduced in 2010 some financial firms made the same claims, which after passing of the legislation and, to this day, proved unfounded.

New York has an acquired prestige as a debt-governing jurisdiction that no other jurisdiction matches. The risks of moving to an untested jurisdiction are huge, so as to make issuance in such jurisdictions invariable both for an underwriter and for a prospective sovereign debtor. Even if the alleged costs of the legislation on issuers were true, they 'd not get anywhere close to outweighing the risk of shifting jurisdiction.

4. This is action Congress should take

The legislation that governs the contracts is New York State law, so it is undoubtedly the prerogative of the state to change it.

It is worth noting, if it was Congress taking this action, opponents may have grounds – and would surely try - to challenge it as an infringement of state rights.

5. Private investors, workers and retirees who have invested their savings with NY based fund managers will be the ones who suffer losses as a consequence of the Bill. The reduction in recoveries on NY law governed sovereign debt claims will not be pain-free or just incurred by “vulture funds”, but will be borne by countless individual investors who have entrusted their hard-won money to NY based financial institutions.

The bill protects pension and workers' savings. By shortening the length and cost of debt crises, it improves the performance of investments in those countries or companies having trade and business ties with them. The bill also protects pension and workers' savings by ensuring no creditor will free ride at their expense. The only adverse effect is on the small minority that make a living by free riding.

6. The retroactive application of the Bill to limit enforceability of existing sovereign debt contracts governed by NY law (not just new contracts) would likely face legal challenges on constitutional grounds. There is a strong case that no compelling state interest exists here which would justify the Bill's interference with creditor's rights. At the very least there will be lengthy legal battles that will damage NY's reputation as a jurisdiction where legal contracts are enforced in accordance with their terms.

Although free riders will no doubt file lawsuits to protect their ability to free ride, the bill is not vulnerable to legal or constitutional challenges. It does not impair or change contracts and operates by only affecting the remedy that may be had under New York State law, well within state prerogatives.

For that reason, a compelling state interest is not relevant. But if it was, the state has multiple grounds to invoke that more than warrant this intervention.

7. The legislation could disrupt the delicate consensus reached by global official, multilateral and private creditors (with the support of the US federal government) favouring contractual rather than legislative solutions to sovereign debt challenges. There is no recent empirical evidence that creditors holding NY law governed claims against distressed sovereigns have been unwilling to agree consensual and timely debt restructuring solutions sufficient to restore debt sustainability. The incorporation of aggregated collective action mechanisms into sovereign bonds governed by NY law has proved an effective tool for mitigating the power of potential holdout creditors, as witnessed by the recent Argentine and Ecuador restructurings completed in 2020.

The legislation does not disrupt any global consensus. On the contrary, it is a very discrete measure that leaves intact the full body of soft and hard law commitments, protocols and best practices in the global machinery for sovereign debt restructuring. The comparability of treatment that the bill protects, is a well-ingrained principle in that machinery.

And there is no evidence that the existing consensus excludes legislative solutions where appropriate. In fact, the chiefs of the IMF, World Bank, as well as Finance Ministers of African countries, have all called for major bond-governing jurisdictions to pass legislative measures of the nature of this bill.

On average it takes a country ten years to go from debt crisis to a lasting debt restructuring that restores growth, a phenomenon that the IMF studied well and calls “too little, too late.” That is incontrovertible fact in direct collision with the claim that the private sector is willing to agree to timely and consensual debt restructurings.

8. The delays being encountered in current sovereign debt restructuring cases are principally attributable to problems in coordination among official and multilateral creditors, not recalcitrance of private creditors. These problems, evident in the ongoing delays in finding restructuring solutions in Zambia and Sri Lanka, will not in any way be addressed by the draft Bill. The rise of China and other non-Paris Club official creditors has disrupted the traditional framework for sovereign debt resolution. The limitations of the G-20 Common Framework and other international sovereign debt resolution initiatives (on which S4747 relies) are the real problem that policymakers need to address.

Nobody disputes that China is a problem. That does not imply that it is the only problem or that private creditors do not free ride, which is the issue the bill addresses. Incidentally, dealing with that problem has positive impacts on China’s participation in sovereign debt restructuring by removing one potential excuse to not participate – that private creditors do not comply with comparable treatment.

Debt is undoubtedly one of the most pressing issues facing the developing world. There are three bills to address this crisis, The Model Law, The New York, The Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act (S4747/A2970) and Champerty. The position of the Council is that the Tax

Payer and international Debt Crisis Protection Act offers the best approach to making New York's hedge funds and commercial banks to provide their fair share of debt relief. We also support the Champerty bill.

All resources and growing memos of support are here:

<https://www.jubileeusa.org/nylegislation>

Taxpayer and International Debt Crisis Protection Act - Revised Memo of Support, New York State Council of Churches, (May 30, 2023)

Wall Street Irked by Frantic Push to Solve Sovereign Debt Crisis, **Economic Times**, (May 29, 2023)

Commentary: 'Vulture fund' bill will protect New York's economy **Times Union** (May 24, 2023)

The church-labor fight against vulture funds comes to New York **National Catholic Reporter** (May 24, 2023)

A Catholic approach to global debt **The Evangelist** (May 24, 2023)

Devex Invested: Why IFC's solar program failed to take off in Africa **Devex** (May 23, 2023)
Stiglitz Backs NY Bills That Cap EM Payouts as Trade Groups Fret **Bloomberg** (May 22, 2023)

Business groups urge block of NY bill to cap investment fund profits **Times Union** (May 22, 2023)

New York Bills That Cap Key EM Debt Payouts Rile Pimco, Fidelity **Bloomberg** (May 18, 2023)

Opinion: G-7 meeting is opportunity to prioritize African debt relief **Devex** (May 18, 2023)
Jubilee USA Pushes NY To Enact International Debt Relief Law **The Sanctuary of Independent Media** (May 5, 2023)

How New York State can help end the global debt crisis **Oxfam** (May 1, 2023)
Challenged by Poor Access to External Financing, Aid, Least Developed Countries Must Mobilize Domestic Resources, Promote Investment, Speakers Stress at Doha Roundtable **United Nations** (March 8, 2023)

New York state bill seen aiding poor country debt relief **Reuters, The New York Times, Yahoo** (Feb 17, 2023)

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING EXPANSION ACT

(CARE ACT)

New York State Council of Churches asks for your support of the Child Abuse Reporting Expansion Act (CARE Act) which will require clergy in New York to be mandated reporters for child abuse. For those of you who have served in other states where mandated reporting has been a requirement for many years, it may come as a surprise to you that there is no such requirement in New York. This must change! Denominations in other states were at the forefront of requiring mandated reporting and we need to offer the same leadership in our state. To view what other states (33 total) already require clergy explicitly or implicitly to be mandated reporters, [click here](#).

We invite you to sign [this letter](#). Please share it with your board chairs, colleagues and fellow clergy and ask them to sign it as well. This letter was prepared in consultation with CFCTOO which was started by survivors of abuse at Christian Fellowship Center in Northern New York. They have experienced spiritual, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse at the hands of CFC leaders and members. At considerable risk, they have bravely brought this legislation forward to the Assembly and the Senate. [Click here](#) to read the legislation which is sponsored by Assembly Member Monica Wallace and Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal. It would legally require clergy to function as mandated reporters in instances of suspected child sexual and physical abuse. Abbi Nye and Michelle Wilbur and others from CFCTOO have asked the New York State Council of Churches to support them. I joined Abbi and Michelle along with other clergy and survivors for a press conference and number of lobby visits which were positively received by both Democrat and Republican lawmakers. I promised to Abbi and Michelle that I would build support by urging our ecumenical and interfaith partners to sign a letter of support. To learn more about the bill and CFCTOO go to their website at WWW.cfctoo.com.

Again, [click here](#) to sign the letter. If you have questions please contact me, Peter Cook, Executive Director, New York State Council of Churches at Pcook@nyscoc.org or 508-380-8289. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

TAKE ACTION TO HELP THOSE WRONGFULLY CONVICTED OF CRIMES IN NEW YORK STATE

Did you know that New York State has the third highest number of wrongful convictions in the United States? Or that New York is one of just five states in the U.S. that does not provide a right to attorney in post-conviction cases? The Challenging Wrongful Convictions Act gives wrongfully-convicted New Yorkers a chance to clear their name by improving the existing framework in New York State in several important ways. It would remove the guilty plea bar on actual innocence claims when there is credible new evidence of a wrongful conviction and it would provide for a right to counsel, to post-conviction discovery, to a hearing and to appeal.

How can you help? Sign VOCAL- NY's Faith-leader **Sign- on letter** today and share with your networks. Learn more about this issue and others at: <https://www.vocal-ny.org/issues/mass-incarceration>.

CLEAN SLATE

The Clean Slate Bill would expunge people's criminal records after 3 years past completion of parole for misdemeanors and 6 years for felonies. For fill commentary read [City and State](#), June 1, 2023

ELDER PAROLE AND FAIR AND TIMELY PAROLE BILLS

Act TODAY to Urge the Senate and Assembly Vote on Elder Parole and Fair & Timely Parole

Elder Parole **officially** has a majority of Senators signed on as cosponsors, and both Elder Parole and Fair & Timely Parole have majority support in both houses. Please take these steps TODAY to urge the Senate and Assembly to vote on these bills before the legislative session ends on June 8.

1. Use **this Action Tool** to email your legislators: bit.ly/ParoleJusticeAction
2. **Call Your State Representatives:** Find **your State Assembly Member** and **your State Senator**, call and tell them: "My name is _____ and I'm a constituent. I'm calling to urge you to co-sponsor the Elder Parole (S2423/A2035) and Fair & Timely Parole (S307/A162) bills and to pass them before the session ends. Thank you!"
3. **Call NY's Legislative Leaders:** Call Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins (518) 455-2585) and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie (518-455-3791) and urge them to call a vote on both bills: "My name is _____ and I'm a New Yorker. I'm calling to urge you to call a vote on the Elder Parole (S2423/A2035) and Fair & Timely Parole (S307/A162) bills before session ends. Both bills have majority support and to deny them a chance to be voted on would be an assault on our democracy."
4. **Join us in Albany:** We'll be mobilizing in Albany at least two days per week to sing, chant, rally, meet with lawmakers, and apply whatever pressure we can in support of the Elder Parole and Fair & Timely Parole bills. Sign up to join us for whichever days you can using [this form](#).
5. **Tell Others to Take Action:** Download and share [this graphic](#) with people / organizations you know / on social media. Here's a sample post: TAKE ACTION: Today at 12 noon, call NY Senate Leader @AndreaSCousins & NY Assembly Speaker @CarlHeastie and urge them to call a vote on the Elder Parole and Fair & Timely Parole bills. Both bills have majority support in the Legislature. Now is the moment to act. #FreedomHour

MORE ACTIONS AND RESOURCES ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

· To learn more about the **Treatment Not Jails** campaign, check out their **factsheet** and **FAQ document**.

- **Click here** to draft a Memo of Support for the **Challenging Wrongful Convictions Act**. The campaign is also asking folks to call Senator Bailey to move the bill out of the Codes Committee in the Senate. Here's his phone number: 518-455-2061.

- Check out this **recidivism report** by the **Data Collaborative for Justice** looking at rearrests rates among individuals who were affected by the 2019 reforms and the 2020 amendments. It shows that bail reform did not increase the likelihood of re-arrest.

Thanks again for joining us last Thursday. **Please register for the next Statewide Call on Thursday, June 8th from 12-1pm!** The next call is Thursday, June 8th from 12-1pm. **Please register for the call here!**