

# NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ISSUE OVERVIEW HANDOUT- JUNE 2023

Learn More at [WWW.NYSCOC.ORG](http://WWW.NYSCOC.ORG) under events, Ecumenical Advocacy Day

## FEDERAL

**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.

### Websites we Check Frequently for Analysis of Federal Issues

Center for Budget and Public Policy Priorities [www.cbpp.org](http://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](http://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.**
2. **Let them Work! Work authorizations**
3. **Help group or groups in your county offering relief to migrants.**
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.
2. **Pass Secure Wages Earned Against Theft (SWEAT) Bill** which would allow workers to place a lien on the assets of an employer assets who steals their wages until the matter is resolved.

## 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

### **NEW YORK TAXPAYER & 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

**CHILD ABUSE REPORTING EXPANSION ACT (CARE ACT)**

Requires clergy to be mandated reporters for child abuse.

**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.

**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 full commentary read [City and State](#), June 1, 2023