

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

**CALL THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE NOW!
TELL THEM TO REFORM THE ROCKEFELLER DRUG LAWS
IT'S ABOUT TIME!**

The Governor and Legislature are again discussing reform of the Rockefeller-era Drug Laws. These laws impose harsh mandatory prison sentences for the possession or sale of small quantities of narcotics and mandate prison sentences for repeat offenders even if they are addicted and better off in treatment.

What to Do:

- ' Contact the Governor, your local legislators, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver.

Message for the Governor and Legislature:

- ' **Reform the Rockefeller Drug Laws Now! Discretion in sentencing must be returned to judges so that punishment fits the crime.**
- Contact your local newspapers. Ask them to write editorials supporting reform of the drug laws.

Key facts:

- 19,000 people are in New York State prisons for drug offenses. 94% of them are African-American or Latino.
- In many cases judges do not have the power to send people to treatment instead of prison, even if they are addicted and non-violent and less likely to commit future crimes if treated.
- Under the Rockefeller drug laws, people who possess four ounces of cocaine or heroin, or sell or possess with intent to sell two ounces, must receive a minimum sentence of 15 years to life.
- Under the Second Felony Offender law, anyone convicted of two felony drug offenses within 10 years (and sale or possession with intent to sell of any amount of cocaine and heroin is a felony) must be sent to prison, regardless of the nature of the offense, the character or motivation of the offender, or even the judgment of the court as to what would be just.
- New York's drug laws are among the harshest in the nation. They must be reformed now!