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JOINT SENATE TASK FORCE ON  
OPIOIDS, ADDICTION AND OVERDOSE PREVENTION

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



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November 17, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of the State of New York  
Executive Chamber  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

I write to bring your attention to the growing concerns regarding Raise the Age. Numerous law enforcement and media reports have noted the sharp rise in youth crime since 2018. While there are many factors contributing to this increase, it's clear that the Raise the Age reforms passed in 2018 are making our streets less safe – especially for our youth.

As a former law enforcement officer, I worked with juvenile offenders and helped them any chance that I could. I believe in restorative justice and agree with much of the reasoning behind "Raise the Age" reform. However, the status quo is in dire need of significant changes. Repeat offenders, those affiliated with gangs, and offenders using a deadly weapon need to be held accountable and cannot be immediately released back into our communities.

I'm respectfully requesting that you include common sense reforms to Raise the Age in your Executive Budget. I recently authored [S.8531](#), legislation that gives more judicial discretion over the removal of cases to family court and makes illegally using or possessing a firearm an exception to a case being removed to family court. I believe any or all of the changes in my bill would go a long way to fixing the system and improving public safety.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Rolison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert G. Rolison  
New York State Senate  
39th District