

# OPINION

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Bail reform insanity

To the Editor,  
According to all reports emanating from Albany, our Governor and his Democratic legislators would have us believe the new bail reform law which is now in effect only pertains to non-violent offenders.

Never has a bigger lie been perpetrated upon the voters of New York.

How many of the following crimes would you consider to be victimless or non-violent in nature?

Second degree burglary of a residence; second and third degree burglary as a hate crime; second and third degree robbery; second degree robbery as a hate crime; criminal sale of a controlled substance to a child; reckless assault of a child; stalking; first degree stalking while committing a sex offense; reckless assault of a child by a daycare provider; vehicular assault and aggravated vehicular assault; menacing and menacing as a hate crime; criminally negligent homicide; second degree vehicular manslaughter; aggravated vehicular manslaughter; unlawful imprisonment; coercion; third, fourth and fifth degree arson; third, fourth and fifth degree arson as a hate crime; killing a police dog or police horse; first degree criminal contempt; criminal anarchy; pointing a laser at an aircraft; assisting in female genital

mutilation; promoting an obscene sexual performance by a child; third degree criminal possession of a weapon; criminal possession of a weapon on school grounds.

If an offender commits any of the above crimes, plus many more, a judge is precluded from setting bail, thus requiring the immediate release of the perpetrator with a piece of paper directing him to return to court at a later date.

Insane.

On top of this atrocity, the Governor and his nitwitted colleagues in Albany are proposing additional reforms to the parole system. It isn't enough that since taking office, he has closed at least 24 prisons and juvenile detention centers in addition to reducing the state's prison population by over 10,000. He now wants to jeopardize the safety of New Yorkers even more by showing even more leniency to the parole population.

Think about this. When have you ever heard the Governor or his lemmings on the left talk about what they can do to enhance the safety and security of the law abiding citizens of this state, instead of making life easier for the criminals? You can't recall because he hasn't.

I urge you to remember this in November.

**Robert Kimball Canistero**

## ANOTHER VIEW



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TOM O'MARA | 58TH DISTRICT

# Law and order cannot take a back seat



Tom Omara

It has been information-gathering season at the Capitol with the Legislature holding public hearings on Governor Andrew Cuomo's 2020-21 proposed state budget.

The hearing topics highlight the many responsibilities we face: environmental conservation, transportation, health care, education, local government, economic development, and taxes. In other words, a full plate of challenges.

However, the issue of public safety continues to take center stage.

For the foreseeable future, new laws already enacted (and under consideration) by this governor and a state Legislature under one-party, downstate Democrat control (with a far-left, radical, self-proclaimed Democratic Socialist wing of the party firmly entrenched at the highest levels of decision making) promises to turn this state's system of criminal justice into something that many everyday citizens

will simply not recognize or understand.

Most reasonable people agree that public safety is a fundamental responsibility. That is not the thinking in this one-party Legislature.

Many New Yorkers are well aware of the "No Bail" controversy. Last week, another concern resurfaced.

Remember that Governor Cuomo and the Democrat legislative majorities enacted the so-called "Green Light Law" as a top priority in 2019. It authorizes driver's licenses for illegal immigrants.

I joined many in law enforcement and local government to oppose the move as reckless. Lawbreaking illegal immigrants should not be rewarded with a government-issued driver's license, for numerous reasons.

Several county clerks have unsuccessfully challenged the law. Now the federal Department of Justice (DOJ) weighs in. A joint statement last week from New York's U.S. attorneys noted that a "less heralded - though perhaps more impactful - provision of the statute prevents the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) from sharing information with

any agency that enforces immigration law." It has "a much broader adverse effect on law enforcement and public safety," they said.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and other federal law enforcement agencies regularly rely on state-level DMV information to protect public safety.

The U.S. Attorneys state that DMV information assists "in stopping transnational criminal organizations, cybercrime, and offenses involving drug trafficking and money laundering; murder, sexual assault, and other crimes of violence; racketeering and extortion; the illegal use and possession of firearms; economic espionage, telemarketing fraud, and elder fraud; human trafficking; and child exploitation, as well as illegal immigration."

Nevertheless, Governor Cuomo and the Legislature's Democrat majorities approved a law essentially telling federal law enforcement, "Get lost."

New York's U.S. Attorneys state, "Our citizens, lawful permanent and temporary residents, visitors... deserve better, and so do those who serve and

protect them. Restoring collaboration and information sharing furthers our effort to secure justice for all, preserve public safety, protect individual rights, and promote due process, bringing us ever closer to a sanctuary built on the rule of law and fairness for everyone."

In a strongly worded statement, the State Sheriff's Association adds, "We feel compelled to express our opposition and deep concern... Our inability, under the new law, to share DMV data with federal immigration officers jeopardizes the safety of those officers. We find it offensive that, in order to avail our own Deputies of DMV data that they need for their own safe operations, we were coerced into signing a non-disclosure agreement which jeopardizes the safety of our federal partners."

The bottom line is straightforward for me: What is best for public safety?

For this governor and this Legislature to have public safety keep taking a back seat to ideology (or, even worse, political gain), is wrong, it's irresponsible, it's dangerous, and it puts all of us at risk.

Law and order matters.

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The Leader (ISSN #10501983) The Leader is published daily at 34 West Pulteney Street, Corning, New York 14830 by Gannett. Periodical postage paid at Corning, N.Y. 14830-0817. USPS code | 0586-160. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Leader, 34 West Pulteney Street, Corning, New York 14830. Monday-Friday home delivery deadline is 6:30am; Saturday-Sunday home delivery deadline is 7:30am.

<p><b>PUBLISHER</b> Rick Emanuel, Group Publisher 936-4651, Ext. 303</p> <p><b>EDITORIAL</b> events@the-leader.com Shawn Vargo, Executive Editor 936-4651, Ext. 361 svargo@the-leader.com</p>	<p><b>MARKETING</b> hfalkkey@the-leader.com Heather Falkey, Ad Director 936-4651, Ext. 347</p> <p><b>BUSINESS OFFICE</b> bpost@the-leader.com Becky Post, Administration 936-4651, Ext. 306</p>	<p><b>CIRCULATION</b> circulation@the-leader.com 936-4651, Ext. 650 (If your paper is missed please call the office for either next day re-delivery or credit).</p> <p><b>CLASSIFIEDS   RETAIL</b> 936-4651, Ext. 314 936-4651, Ext. 653</p>
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