



**DAVID J. CLEGG**  
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**ULSTER COUNTY**  
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February 22, 2021

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
President and Majority Leader of the New York State Senate  
State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie  
Speaker of the New York State Assembly  
State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12248

Re: A. 4448 and S. 830

Dear Governor Cuomo, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Heastie:

Please accept this letter in support of A. 4448 and S. 830 which would restore voting rights for all New Yorkers upon their release from prison. As the District Attorney of Ulster County, I am convinced that helping those who have served time in prison to re-enter our communities in a positive way will promote rehabilitation and reduce recidivism. Reinstating their right to vote will reduce the stigma of their time in prison and will help them re-engage with the issues and obligations of public life.

Prior to being District Attorney, I had taught in the Rising Hope Program and Woodbourne Prison. I have seen firsthand the difficulties my former students have faced after leaving prison. It can be a hard road. I believe giving them back the right to vote immediately upon leaving prison sends a welcoming and important message that they are to be treated with respect.

Thank you for your service,

Sincerely,

  
**DAVID J. CLEGG**  
Ulster County District Attorney