

# The Correctional Association of New York

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## Potential Savings in New York State's 2007-08 Budget Comes to Over \$210 Million

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### Potential Annual Savings from Rockefeller Drug Law Repeal

- **3,623** offenders diverted x **\$60,000** in annual savings per individual diverted  
= **\$217,400,000**

### Explanation of Calculated Savings from Drug Law Repeal

Because of the many variables in the way our law enforcement and criminal justice systems operate, it is difficult to project precisely the savings that would result from Dropping the Rock. The following, however, represents a thoughtful attempt at a realistic analysis.

In 2006, 6,039 drug offenders were sent to state prison. If the drug laws were repealed, all of them would be eligible for judicial diversion. Legal Action Center staff has calculated that under the New York State Assembly's reform plan (a more limited proposal than repeal), 60% of eligible offenders would be diverted from prison to an alternative rehabilitation program. We will also base projected savings from repeal on the strong possibility that, under such a system, judges would sentence at least 60% of eligible offenders to an alternative punishment. Based on 2006 data, that number would come to 3,623 offenders.

In addition, the Legal Action Center has calculated that NYS government would save about \$60,000 for every offender diverted from state prison—\$50,000 in total net criminal justice system related savings and \$10,000 from reducing health care and welfare costs, crime and increased tax contributions.