

# NEW JERSEY WORKING FAMILIES ALLIANCE

December 1, 2025

Dear Governor Murphy, Senate President Scutari and Assembly Speaker Coughlin:

We, the undersigned good government leaders, strongly urge you to **reject** proposed legislation that would gut investigatory powers within the Office of the State Comptroller.

**While S4924 purports to expand the State Commission of Investigation's (SCI) powers in the name of reducing redundancies and making efficiencies across watchdog agencies, it would remove the teeth from our state's independent watchdog, making corruption more common and costing New Jersey taxpayers millions of dollars.**

This bill offers no public benefit. Instead, it would undermine the very office charged with rooting out fraud, waste, and abuse of taxpayer funds, and ensuring our state government actually works for the people of New Jersey.

**We are demanding that you stand against any attempts to weaken the Office of the State Comptroller during this lame duck session.**

The timing of this proposal makes it even more egregious. With our nation in crisis and watchdog agencies under attack by the Trump administration, New Jersey should be a beacon for strengthening accountability and oversight, not actively undermining it.

Under multiple administrations of both parties, the Office of the State Comptroller has wielded its investigative powers to ensure transparency, tackle corruption, and prevent taxpayers from being ripped off. In a state known for its insider politics and backroom deal-making, the Comptroller has risen above partisan politics to improve public confidence in government. We must reject corruption in all of its forms, regardless of political party or who is in charge.

The Office of the State Comptroller has saved taxpayers millions of dollars by exposing violations of procurement and contracting rules and financial mismanagement in municipalities large and small across our state. Moreover, the Comptroller's Police Accountability Project has served as an important check on state and local law enforcement:

- OSC found that NJ State Police gave preferential treatment to drivers with "courtesy cards" creating a tiered justice system for those with law enforcement connections.<sup>1</sup>
- OSC found that hundreds of NJ police departments wasted more than \$1 million in spending taxpayer dollars on questionable private police training that promoted unconstitutional practices<sup>2</sup>
- An OSC investigation initiated at the request of Governor Murphy found that New Jersey City University's improper budgeting practices caused a \$14 million deficit, years before its financial troubles resulted in a merger with Kean University.<sup>3</sup>
- OSC found that the Department of Corrections failed to identify facilities with excessive use of force, allowing officers who used excessive force to escape discipline entirely.<sup>4</sup>
- OSC found that Union County public officials were paid extra compensation and failed to follow a public process under the law.<sup>5</sup>

And because this legislation is being pushed in the waning days of a gubernatorial administration, under the cover of the holiday season, it threatens to hobble Governor-elect Mikie Sherrill right out of the gate, saddling her administration by further eroding the public's trust in Trenton. Specifically, we are concerned that S4942 would remove the Governor's ability to designate the SCI chairperson, and instead give that power to the Senate President and the Assembly Speaker, and would also remove term limits for SCI commissioners.

We are calling on you to listen to the wishes of your constituents and good government leaders across New Jersey. Stand against this brand of politics. Reject this attempt to weaken the state's strongest independent watchdog against corruption.

Thank you.

ACLU-NJ

AAPI NJ

Angels in Motion

Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC)

Barnegat Democratic Club

Black Lives Matter Paterson

BlueWaveNJ

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<sup>1</sup> [NJ Office of the State Comptroller - Use and Abuse of Officer Discretion in Declining to Enforce Motor Vehicle Violations](#)

<sup>2</sup> [NJ Office of the State Comptroller - The High Price of Unregulated Private Police Training to New Jersey](#)

<sup>3</sup> [NJ Office of the State Comptroller - An Investigation Into New Jersey City University's Financial Emergency](#)

<sup>4</sup> [NJ Office of the State Comptroller - The Department of Corrections' Internal Affairs Unit Failed to Adequately Investigate Abuse Allegations](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Top Union County Officials Paid Extra Compensation Without Following Public Process, Investigation Finds](#)

CAIR New Jersey  
Camden AHEC  
Climate Revolution Action Network  
Community in Connection  
Committee of Interns and Residents/SEIU  
CWA Local 1081  
Emgage Action  
Environment New Jersey  
Food & Water Watch  
Good Government Coalition of New Jersey  
Greater New Jersey Gateway Chapter of the Climate Reality Project  
Helping Hand Housing Project  
Hyacinth AIDS Foundation  
Indivisible Cranbury  
Indivisible Rahway  
Knitty Gritty Jersey City Social Club  
Lawrence Citizen Activists  
Make the Road New Jersey  
New Brunswick Area Branch NAACP  
New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice  
New Jersey Black Empowerment Coalition  
New Jersey Citizen Action  
New Jersey Harm Reduction Coalition  
New Jersey Institute for Social Justice  
New Jersey Organizing Project  
New Jersey Policy Perspective  
New Jersey Recovery Advocates  
New Labor  
NJ 11th for Change  
NJ Resistance'  
NJ Sierra Club  
NJ Voters Want More Say  
nj21st.com  
New Jersey Working Families Alliance  
North NJ DSA  
Ocean County Young Democrats  
OneNJ7  
Piscataway Progressive Democratic Organization  
Rapha HealthCare Services Healing Initiative  
Recovery Center at Bergen New Bridge Medical Center

Recovery Friendly New Jersey  
Rise Up Together  
Ruby's Vision Inc.  
Salvation and Social Justice  
Save Our Schools NJ  
Sea Change Recovery Community Organization  
1199 SEIU  
SOMA Action  
South Jersey AIDS Alliance  
South Jersey Progressive Democrats  
The Gem Project  
The League of Women Voters of New Jersey  
The Urban Political Pipeline and Advocacy Network  
Transition Professionals  
Union of Rutgers Administrators-American Federation of Teachers (URA-AFT)  
Van Vorst Neighborhood Association  
WADEIn NJ  
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center

CC:

Governor-Elect Mikie Sherrill  
Lieutenant Governor-Elect Dale Caldwell