



**New York State Correctional Officers
& Police Benevolent Association, Inc.**
“Keeping New York Safe”

**No End in Sight for Skyrocketing Prison Violence as NYS
Legislative Session Ends**

Violence in Facilities is on Record-Setting Pace since Implementation of the HALT Act

Recent State Data Shows Single Week Record Highs for both Inmate-on-Staff Assaults and Inmate-on-Inmate Assaults

Numerous Serious, Violent Incidents Recorded in Multiple Facilities Across New York State the Past Two Weeks

Albany, NY – The New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc. (NYSCOPBA) is outraged at the New York State Legislature’s inaction with respect to the staggering rise in prison violence since the implementation of the Humane Alternatives for Long Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act. The HALT Act, which severely limits or in some cases eliminates, the ability to place incarcerated individuals in Special Housing Units separated from the general population, was implemented in all State-run correctional facilities on April 1, 2022.

NYSCOPBA President Michael Powers said: “Despite the repeated efforts of NYSCOPBA to call attention to the horrific conditions the HALT Act has created in our prisons, later this week, the Democratic Majority in the New York Legislature is poised to head home for the summer without so much as even acknowledging skyrocketing prison violence. They’ve given no indication that they plan to address this crisis and to ignore the record rates of violence the HALT Act has created within the first two months of its implementation is inexcusable and frankly, disgraceful. Everyone who works and resides in a prison facility in New York State is doing so in a much more dangerous situation today than they were just a few short months ago because of the Legislature’s epic failure, the HALT Act.”

According to numbers reported by the New York State Department of Correction and Community Supervision, since April 1, 2022, overall violence in New York State correctional facilities has risen over 35%. Inmate-on-staff violence has increased approximately 35%, while inmate-on-inmate violence has climbed 36%, since April 1. According to the data, the single-week high of inmate-on-staff assaults was set during the week ending May 22, 2022, as 40 staff members were assaulted. The monthly average number of staff members assaulted in 2022 prior to the implementation of the HALT Act on April 1 is 98. Post HALT, the monthly average has jumped

to 129 staff assaulted. Additionally, the single-week high of inmate-on-inmate assaults was set during the week ending April 24th, 2022, as 37 inmates were assaulted by other incarcerated individuals. The monthly average number of inmates assaulted by other inmates in 2022 prior to the implementation of the HALT Act on April 1 is 99. Post HALT, the monthly average rose to 131 inmates assaulted by other inmates.

“What is it going to take for the Democratic Majority in both houses of the New York State Legislature to address how the HALT Act has made prisons more dangerous? A prison uprising? Someone getting killed?” **President Powers said.** “What about the safety of the state workforce? These are sworn officers of the law who are being targeted and are suffering from unprovoked attacks, and yet the Democrats in the New York State Legislature ignore the rising violence. For years, we warned them HALT would do nothing to improve the lives of the incarcerated community and sadly that prediction has come true, but we didn’t think they would ignore the issue once the facts backed our claims. To turn their collective backs on law enforcement is new low and they should be ashamed of themselves.”

Within the past two weeks, there have been numerous disturbing, unprovoked incidents of violence in state-run correctional facilities that have resulted in a dozen officers injured.

- Wednesday May 18: two officers at Elmira Correctional Facility sustained injuries after an inmate refused to return to his cell and violently attacked the officers.
- Sunday May 22: An officer at Wende Correctional Facility sustained several injuries after an inmate refused to return to his cell and violently attacked the officer.
- Thursday May 26: Two officers at Clinton Correctional Facility were injured and hospitalized after an inmate threw hot scalding liquid onto the face and head of one officer and viciously assaulted a second officer.
- Friday May 27: Five officers at Marcy Correctional Facility were injured and hospitalized after two separate incidents where inmates faked being unresponsive in order to lure officers into their cells and attack them.
- Friday May 27: An officer at Attica Correctional Facility was stabbed through the hand by an inmate wielding a weapon during a fight with another inmate.
- Monday May 30: An officer at Great Meadow Correctional Facility was cut with a weapon and hospitalized after an inmate faked a suicide in order to lure officers into his cell to attack them.

In May 2022, NYSCOPBA launched its “Repeal HALT campaign” to raise awareness of the dangerous working and living conditions inside New York State’s correctional facilities. Additionally, in May 2022, NYSCOPBA representatives stood with Republican lawmakers of both the New York State Senate and New York State Assembly to announce legislation to repeal the HALT Act. So far, the Democratic Majority in both houses has refused to vote on the proposed legislation.

In May 2021, NYSCOPBA filed a federal lawsuit against New York State to overturn HALT, arguing that the new law violates its members’ civil rights. That lawsuit is still pending.