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STEC, ASSEMBLYMAN SIMPSON AND NYSCOPBA RENEW CALL TO REPEAL HALT AT GREAT MEADOW PRESS CONFERENCE

Since enactment of HALT, attacks on COs, civilian staff have increased dramatically

Senator Dan Stec (R,C-Queensbury), Assemblyman Matt Simpson (R,C,I-Horicon), New York State Corrections Officers PBA President Michael Powers and Northern Region Vice President John Roberts today held a press conference outside Great Meadow Correctional Facility to call for a repeal of the HALT Act.

HALT severely limits the use of special housing units in correctional facilities. Since HALT's implementation on April 1, data from the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) shows that overall assaults in facilities has risen well by well over 30 percent, with a 33 percent increase since June 30. At this rate, a new record for attacks in correctional facilities in one calendar year will be set this October..

The spike in assaults, in conjunction with declining officer recruitment numbers and increased retirements since HALT's implementation, has caused a crisis inside correctional facilities. Senator Stec and Assemblyman Simpson sponsor legislation to repeal HALT (Senate bill S9378/Assembly bill A10593) and urged the Governor and Legislature to take action on it and help restore safety inside correctional facilities and support officers and civilian staff.

“Since the implementation of HALT, it seems like serious inmate assaults on officers, civilian staff and other inmates has become commonplace,” **said Senator Stec.** “It’s unacceptable that our corrections officers and civilian staff don’t have the full range of resources necessary to offer protection against violent, disruptive inmates. We must take action immediately and make correctional facilities safer by repealing HALT. I’m proud to stand for public safety and stand with our corrections officers and will continue working to ensure they have the support they need to do their dangerous, essential work.”

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