



**New York State Correctional Officers  
& Police Benevolent Association, Inc.**

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***“Keeping New York Safe”***

**Record Number of Violent Assaults in Prisons Set During  
the First Full Year of the HALT Act**

*More Violent Assaults in Prisons Recorded During the First Year of  
HALT Than in Any Twelve-Month Stretch in New York State History*

*Once HALT was Implemented in April 2022, Prison Violence  
Immediately Increased Nearly 40% and has Consistently Remained at  
that Level Since*

*Union Renews Call to Restore Safety into New York’s Prisons and Jails  
by Repealing the HALT Act*

**Albany, NY** – The New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc. (NYSCOPBA) continues to demand that New York State Legislators address the skyrocketing violence within New York’s correctional facilities after state-maintained data reveals extremely high rates of prison violence during the first full year the HALT Act has been in place. The Union is once again calling for a full repeal of the Humane Alternatives for Long Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act, which was implemented in all state-run prisons on April 1, 2022. 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, and state data shows the rate of assaults in prisons has skyrocketed since the law was implemented.

**NYSCOPBA President Michael Powers said:** “It’s unfathomable that the New York State Legislature refuses to acknowledge what is clear to those of us who live and work in our prisons. The HALT Act has made the prison environment extremely dangerous for both staff and the incarcerated community alike. The rate of assaults in prison is significantly up as there is little to no deterrent in place to dissuade individuals from attacking staff or settling scores with fellow inmates. This level of violence is unsustainable and needs to be addressed immediately.”

According to numbers maintained by the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), since the HALT Act was enacted on April 1, 2022, there were 3113 total assaults recorded in New York’s correctional facilities. That dwarfs the twelve months prior to HALT’s enactment where only 2,375 assaults were recorded, a near 33% jump in overall violence. As previously reported, publicly posted state data shows a record number of inmate-on-staff and inmate-on-inmate assaults was set in 2022.

“Several weeks ago, during the NYS Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on public Protection, the Democratic majorities of both houses had the state-maintained data directly in front of them and the opportunity to question those who have decades of experience in the correctional system about how to address the significant rise in violence, but they chose to remain silent,” **said President Powers.** “The numbers do not lie. Conditions in prison have never been worse and for supporters of HALT to sit idly by and pretend HALT is making prisons safer is appalling and should be held publicly accountable.”