



## ***NYSCOPBA President Calls on State to Make Changes to On-Going Recruitment Problems***

*Pay Increase and Improving Safety for Staff Instrumental In Increasing Recruitment Pool*

### **For Immediate Release**

**August 5, 2024**

**Albany , NY** – In his response to Governor Hochul's statement on recruitment last week, Chris Summers, President of NYSCOPBA, emphasized that if New York State wanted to make meaningful changes to DOCCS, they should listen to the brave men and women working in these facilities who are the front line staff within the correctional system. He highlighted the long-standing calls from NYSCOPBA for meaningful changes, including raising pay rates and improving safety within prisons through revisions to the HALT Law. Summers stated “ Our members are being forced to work unprecedented amounts of mandatory overtime which at times includes shifts as long as 24 hours straight.”

Summers made it clear that the proposed idea of raising the age of eligibility for becoming a Correction Officer does not directly address the pressing issues faced by correctional staff, especially since there is no age restriction in New York State other than being 21 years of age or older to apply to become Correction Officers.

Overall, Summers called for a comprehensive approach that prioritizes making practical solutions that address the underlying issues within the correctional system to create a safer and more effective work environment for all involved.