



Media Contact:

Jason Politi | Baker Public Relations
O: 518.426.4099 | M: 845.913.6394
jason@bakerpublicrelations.com
www.bakerpublicrelations.com
James Miller / NYSCOPBA
jmiller@nyscopba.org /518-469-0379

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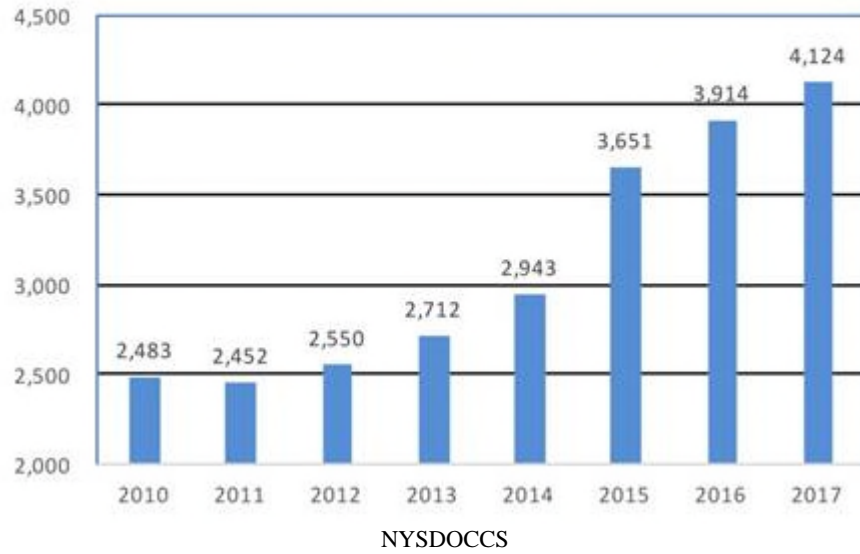
**STATEMENT FROM NYSCOPBA ON GOVERNOR CUOMO'S DIRECTIVE TO NYS
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS & COMMUNITY SUPERVISION TO RESCIND
SECURE VENDOR PILOT PROGRAM**

Albany, NY - "NYSCOPBA is disappointed in the Governor's decision today to direct DOCCS to suspend the secure vendor pilot program," said Michael Powers, President of NYSCOPBA. "Contraband introduced into prison facilities continues to be a growing issue, and presents the potential for correctional officers to face dangerous, even life threatening, situations. A program such as this, designed to more effectively govern items that are brought into prison facilities, has become a best practice in the field of corrections nationwide. We hope that the Department makes necessary corrections and reinstates the pilot program to protect our hard working and dedicated members. We are open to working with DOCCS in re-evaluating this program to address the concerns that have been raised, while staying focused on the steps that must be taken to create safer environments inside of our facilities."

The below chart shows the significant rise in the level of contraband introduced into NYS prison facilities.

The attached image was taken by staff processing packaging in a NYS correctional facility in December 2017. The staff discovered that heads of lettuce had been hollowed out and K2 (synthetic marijuana) inserted.

Contraband



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