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TICK BORNE DISEASES
TASK FORCE ON
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

February 13, 2018

Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci
NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision
Building 2
1220 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12226

Dear Commissioner Annucci:

We are writing in regard to the recent testimony you provided at the Joint Budget Hearing on Public Protection related to tablets being made available to more than 50,000 inmates in correctional facilities across the state. At a time when contraband and violent attacks in correctional facilities are on the rise, prisoners will soon be rewarded with tablets allowing them to listen to music, access an email system and file grievances.

We have a number of unanswered questions regarding this proposal. For instance, the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision is claiming there is no cost to the state to provide 51,000 inmates with tablets. However, there is a contract between JPay Incorporated and the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision in the amount of \$8,800,000.00 from August 1, 2017 to July 31, 2022 for "inmate kiosks and related services." What is this contract for?

Additionally, we are concerned what this proposal will mean for the officers who work in these facilities from a logistical standpoint. Will the officers be responsible for maintaining these tablets? Our correction officers do not have the time or the training to maintain these pieces of equipment. Who will replace the tablets and the accompanying accessories when they no longer properly function? Are all correctional facilities within the state capable of charging the tablets?

Furthermore, when will this proposal be implemented? The safety of our correction officers and inmates should be the number one priority. Why would this program take precedence over other programs such as the OC pepper spray pilot program that has still not been fully implemented in all of the state's correctional facilities?

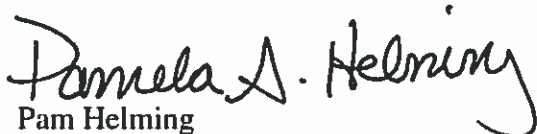
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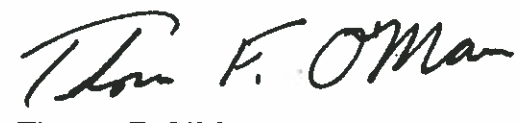
For these reasons and because of these unanswered questions, we strongly urge you to reconsider this decision. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Best Regards,


Pam Helming
NYS Senator, 54th District



Catharine Young
NYS Senator, 57th District



Fred Akshar
NYS Senator, 52nd District



Thomas F. O'Mara
NYS Senator, 58th District

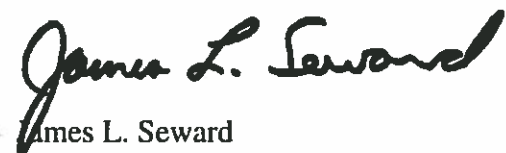

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