



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

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July 24, 2018

The Hon. Gov. Andrew Cuomo
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We are writing to express our disgust at a recent statement from one of your spokespeople accusing New York State corrections officers of protecting individuals who rape and assault prisoners. This accusation is incredibly offensive to the hard-working men and women who risk their lives on a daily basis to keep New Yorkers safe from violent and dangerous criminals in our prison system. Painting our membership with such a broad brush shows disrespect for law enforcement that is beyond the pale, and we hold you accountable for allowing members of your administration to treat law enforcement this way.

With that said, NYSCOPBA is not interested in engaging in political silliness. We began our public advocacy campaign with a single interest: To educate the citizens of New York State about issues of great importance to their public safety. Our goal is to begin a dialogue about policies that negatively impact our criminal justice system, a system which we all have taken an oath to uphold.

We must fix a broken parole system, in which you have played a significant role by appointing a majority of Parole Board members, which has allowed for the release of cop killers and other violent criminals who have otherwise been found to be a danger to society. We must not allow paroled sexual predators and murderers to enter our schools, community centers and other polling places where children, families and seniors expect a safe space to engage in the democratic process. We cannot lose sight of the need to provide our children with a sound education and believe you and our lawmakers must prioritize kids over criminals when it comes to state programs that offer access to educational tools.

Simply put, we will not apologize for calling attention to these issues, nor will we stop shining a light on the role you must play in achieving real reforms.

NYSCOPBA will not allow political gamesmanship to stop us from educating the public. The brave men and women of corrections have sworn an oath and dedicated their lives to keeping New Yorkers safe. It's time you and your administration respect their sacrifices.

Sincerely,

NYSCOPBA Executive Board