



For Immediate Release

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Correctional Officers Union Criticizes Governor and Legislature for Closing Two Prisons

Backroom deal in Albany will make prisons more dangerous for incarcerated individuals and correctional officers, devastate two communities

The statement below can be attributed to Michael B. Powers, President of the New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc. (NYSCOPBA):

"The Governor and Legislature have seemingly done the impossible. They've made one of the most dangerous prison systems in the country even more dangerous for both incarcerated individuals and correctional officers. The stats don't lie — prison violence is at an all-time high.

"By consolidating the incarcerated into other facilities, prisons will be overpopulated and violence will only increase. This does nothing to reduce the prison population and improve prison conditions that certain Legislators and the Governor have been advocating for. If anything, it does the opposite. And the archaic and inhumane practice of double bunking has artificially created open beds, and open beds gives the Administration false justification.

"On top of that, closing prisons will undoubtedly devastate two communities and with only 90 days' notice, despite a law in place mandating one year's notice. Jobs will be lost, the tax base will suffer and the local economy will be crushed — all because of the Governor and the Legislature.

"And if the Administration says there will be no layoffs, we all know that statement is twisting the truth. These closures are going to force families to uproot and move across the state, and that's not a choice that all will make. We demand that the Governor reveal the prisons that will be closed immediately.

“Simply put, the Governor and the Legislature have unequivocally turned their backs on the men and women who keep order in our prisons. This is something we won't soon forget.”

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About NYSCOPBA

NYSCOPBA represents more than 26,000 New York State employees and retirees from the Security Services Unit. The union was formed in May 1998 and since that time has provided superior representation to membership under the independent and democratic model. The objectives are to improve the terms and conditions of employment, protect members contractual rights, provide high quality representation in the collective bargaining process, communicate effectively with the membership, achieve legislative gains, and to promote the overall welfare of members.