



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

102 Hackett Boulevard ♦ Albany, NY 12209
Tel. (518) 427-1551 ♦ Fax (518) 426-1635
www.nyscopba.org ♦ nyscopba@nyscopba.org



March 9, 2005

Hon. Sheldon Silver
New York State Assembly
250 Broadway
Suite 2307
New York, NY 10007

Re: Prison Closings

Dear Speaker Silver:

I am writing to express my deep concern over the Governor's proposal to close six of the state's correctional facilities.

It has taken the state many years to build a correctional system that is capable of handling all types of criminals, from hard core to youthful offenders. The current system protects New York citizens from the worst type of offenders and at the same time it attempts to rehabilitate young men and women in need of a helping hand.

By the State Correction Department's own estimates, there are more violent criminals in the state facility system than at any time in our history. Our youth population is also at its highest number. So what is the state's proposal for our prison system?

The Governor's budget would eliminate vital programs that help young inmates rebuild their lives and would also force the closure of six facilities.

Upstate counties are facing the worst economic crises they have seen in the last 50 years. Does it make sense to turn so many law enforcement professionals into former taxpayers?

On behalf of the 23,000 dedicated law enforcement professionals of NYSCOPBA, I urge that you do all within your power as a member of the legislature to see that the six facilities remain open, so that they can continue to protect the law abiding citizens of New York State.

Sincerely,

Richard Harcrow
President



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Senator Joseph L. Bruno
Majority Leader and President Pro Tempore
New York State Senate
368 Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

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