

STATEMENT FROM NYSCOPBA PRESIDENT DONN ROWE

“NYSCOPBA members understand all too well the financial pressures the State is facing. On good days, our members work under extreme pressures. We deal with thousands of double-bunked inmates in cells designed for only one person; our members work 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. When New York faces very real fiscal challenges, our responsibilities become even more daunting.”

“NYSCOPBA respects Governor Paterson’s responsibilities in returning New York to a healthy and stable economic position. We share his commitment to maintaining public safety; we show that commitment by making our prison system the safest in America.”

“While we look forward to working with Governor Paterson and both houses of the Legislature to be part of the solution, we will not allow the budget to be balanced on the backs of our members. For too many years, the overly simplistic solution has been to close facilities across the state.”

“Through effective education and cooperation with the Legislature, those proposals have rightly been rejected. We will work to protect our members while helping State Leaders make the right choices in difficult times.”