



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

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## **NYSCOPBA President Rowe, “Not on our members’ backs!”**

The NYS Department of Correctional Services has initiated a second round of agency cuts which they have referred to as a “consolidation plan.” I refer to this plan as a short term mess on paper, to appear as if they are saving money. Are they really saving anything other than their own jobs?

This “Plan” calls for squeezing more inmates into already overcrowded cells and dorms, while cutting vital Correction Officer staff and increasing tensions. The Commissioner is cutting necessary security from the prisons; at the same time, he is expanding his Executive Team by adding a new Deputy Commissioner position to oversee what he has identified as low and medium “core missions” of the Department. Is this fiscally responsible when all state agencies are operating under an across the board hiring freeze?

While they (administrators) are actively cutting necessary security posts in the prisons, they haven’t considered cutting the homes they get for free with all utilities included; the cars they get for free; the free gas they get; the credit cards they each have, and their free toll passes - that’s only the administrators. Additionally, the inmates continue to enjoy improved recreation areas, flat screen televisions, free college education, and the list goes on. The cost of all of the above financial benefits for administrators and inmates balance on the backs of our members and the New York State taxpayer.

According to D.O.C.S. own data, and their spokesman, the medium and maximum facilities are over 100% capacity. These overcrowded conditions include 8,000 inmates in double-bunked conditions. D.O.C.S. management’s response to the State’s fiscal crisis is to make line officer cuts and eliminate over 300 full time security staff. This random solution is irresponsible at best. **The first priority of government is public safety and security.** The Department of Corrections should immediately take down all double bunked inmates. This immediate action would restore our prison to their appropriate safety and security staffing levels. New York State prisons are already overcrowded, already understaffed, and dangerous enough. “We need more security in the prisons, not less. If any cuts are required, they should be made at the top. Unfortunately, until the next riot or death our warnings usually fall on deaf ears.”