



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

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## (LETTER SENT TO THE LEGISLATURE)

### NYSCOPBA OPPOSES POTENTIAL REPEAL OF NOTIFICATION LAW

As part of his agenda for the Extraordinary Session that Governor Paterson will be convening on November 29, 2010, the Governor has indicated that he will be seeking the enactment of legislation which will repeal provisions of law requiring a one-year notification prior to the closure of a State facility. NYSCOPBA strongly opposes this ill-conceived initiative to repeal statutory provisions which were simply enacted to provide New York's workforce with adequate time to prepare to uproot themselves and their families in the event a change of work venue is necessary as a result of a facility closure.

With respect to State correctional facilities, in 2005, legislation was enacted to require that adequate notice be provided to all employee labor organizations that would be impacted by a correctional facility closure. NYSCOPBA fought for the enactment of this legislation in order to protect the interests of its members and their families that could be displaced by a facility closure without adequate time to prepare for such a life-changing event. This initiative that NYSCOPBA strongly supported for several years until its eventual enactment in 2005 does not prevent the State from closing facilities which are deemed suitable for closure. It simply recognizes that a closure can have a devastating effect on the employees working within such a facility since many of these individuals will have to transplant themselves and their families to a different part of the State. Providing these citizens with 12 months to plan for such a life change not only provides essential planning time for the employees themselves, but it also affords the impacted communities and local governments with sufficient time to prepare for the changes that will necessarily occur when a facility closes.

Therefore, as President of NYSCOPBA, I am respectfully requesting that you take whatever actions you deem appropriate to stop the implementation of the Governor's proposal. The closure of a State facility can be devastating not only to the employees affected, but to their families as well. At the very least, the State should ensure that those employees who would be impacted by a closure receive the current one-year's notice mandated by existing law.

On behalf of all NYSCOPBA members, I thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation and assistance in this very significant matter.

Sincerely,

Donn Rowe  
President of NYSCOPBA

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