



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

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NYSCOPBA LETTER TO LEGISLATURE OPPOSING CLOSURE OF FACILITIES AND MODIFICATION OF ONE-YEAR NOTIFICATION LAW

As part of his Executive Budget proposal for fiscal year 2013-2014, Governor Cuomo has proposed the closure of Beacon and Bayview Correctional Facilities, and has sought to implement a modification of the State's one-year notification requirement codified in §79-a of the Correction Law. Under the Governor's proposal, these above-referenced correctional facilities could be closed upon 60 days notice to the leaders of the State Legislature. NYSCOPBA vehemently opposes this ill-conceived initiative by Governor Cuomo to close facilities in the first instance, and takes great exception to the Governor's attempt to implement the closures without adherence to the one-year notification law.

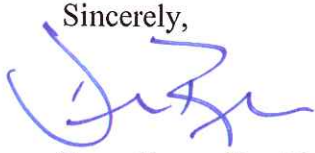
In 2011, Governor Cuomo effectuated the closure of 7 correctional facilities, as a purported result of a declining inmate population. While NYSCOPBA does not dispute the fact that the number of inmates within the State's correctional system has decreased in recent years, we took great issue with the Governor's decision to close so many prisons then, considering that the number of violent, dangerous felons that are incarcerated has remained stagnant; and to have effectuated these closures without adherence to the provisions of §79-a of the Correction Law was a slap in the face to every member of NYSCOPBA. Now, the Governor seeks to close even more prisons, and seeks to do so once again by circumventing the provisions of §79-a – actions which are totally unacceptable to NYSCOPBA.

As you likely know, in 2005 legislation was enacted at the specific request of NYSCOPBA to require that adequate notice be provided to all employee labor organizations that would be impacted by a correctional facility closure. We fought for the enactment of this legislation in order to protect the interests of our members and their families who could be displaced by a closure without adequate time to prepare for such a life-changing event. This vitally important law recognizes that a closure can have a devastating impact on employees working within such a facility, as many of these individuals will have to transplant themselves and their entire families to a different region within the State.

To even consider closing a prison within the context of the Governor's current Executive Budget proposal at a time when the State is not even fully cognizant of the impact of the closures from just a few years ago is not only short-sighted, it is extremely poor public policy. Furthermore, to allow these closures to occur in 60 days without adherence to the one-year notification provisions of §79-a of the Correction Law is an outright disgrace.

Therefore, as President of NYSCOPBA, I am requesting that you take whatever actions you deem appropriate to prevent the implementation of the Governor's proposal to close these facilities, and to close them without adherence to the provisions of §79-a of the Correction Law. On behalf of all my members, I thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation and assistance in this very significant matter and am willing to work with you in whatever ways you deem necessary to prevent this travesty from occurring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Donn Rowe", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Donn Rowe, President of NYSCOPBA