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NYSCOPBA Issues Statement on Solitary Confinement Settlement

Albany, NY – Today the New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association (NYSCOPBA) issued a statement following the announcement of a settlement between the State of New York and the New York Civil Liberties Union on Solitary Confinement.

NYSCOPBA's 20,000 members are dedicated professionals who provide care, custody and control of over 50,000 inmates in 54 correctional facilities across the state. They continue to do this with the upmost professionalism in an environment that continues to become increasingly violent and dangerous.

"While we have not had the opportunity to review the details of this settlement, our state's disciplinary confinement policies have evolved over decades of experience, and it is simply wrong to unilaterally take the tools away from law enforcement officers who face dangerous situations on a daily basis.

It is a fact that many of our corrections facilities have become more overcrowded with a higher proportion of violent offenders than ever before, and any policy changes must prioritize the security of everyone who works and resides in these institutions.

Since 2012, the number of inmate assaults on staff has almost doubled. Limiting the ability to have real measures to discipline violent inmates will only increase those numbers in the coming years. What NYSCOPBA will continue to do is use whatever resources are necessary to advocate on behalf of our members as well as sound policy decisions that make our state's corrections facilities as safe and secure as possible," stated Michael Powers, NYSCOPBA President.

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