



NYSCOPBA Strongly Opposes Planned Closure of Bare Hill Correctional Facility and Partial Closure of Collins Correctional Facility

November 18, 2025

Albany, NY - The New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association (NYSCOPBA) strongly opposes today's announcement by the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) to close Bare Hill Correctional Facility and a portion of Collins Correctional Facility. These closures will only deepen the crisis of violence, chronic understaffing, and unsustainable working conditions that already plague New York's prison system.

Since January 2023, the number of correction officers and sergeants, the frontline staff who perform the vast majority of daily duties has plummeted by 28 percent, while the incarcerated population has increased by 7 percent. Staffing levels are now at their lowest in decades. This is not a system on the brink; it is a system that has already broken.

Closing additional facilities is not a solution, it is a reckless acceleration of the problem. Consolidating an already growing population into fewer prisons makes it harder to separate violent individuals from the general population, guarantees more assaults on staff and incarcerated people alike, and further fuels the cycle of violence and attrition.

For our members, these closures mean life-altering choices: uproot entire families and move hours away to keep their jobs or resign and walk away from careers they have dedicated their lives to. The stress on our officers and their families is already immense;

announcements like today's only compound it and drive more experienced staff out the door.

"We have sounded the alarm for years that New York's correctional system is at a breaking point," said Chris Summers, NYSCOPBA President. "Closing prisons is a short-sighted Band-Aid on a gaping wound. It does nothing to address historic staffing shortages, does nothing to curb the record levels of violence inside our facilities, and forces loyal public servants to choose between their livelihoods and their families. Prisons are safest when they are properly staffed and when the population is spread out enough to manage risk effectively. The real solution is to keep facilities open, aggressively recruit and retain staff, and stop treating correction officers as disposable."

Summers continued: "It is abundantly clear that if you commit to doing this extremely difficult and dangerous job, don't expect the State of New York to commit to you. Since 2009, the state has closed 27 prisons, throwing thousands of correction officers and their families into chaos forcing them to sell homes, pull children out of school, and abandon the communities they swore to serve. Year after year, Albany treats our members like line items on a budget instead of the men and women who risk their lives every day to keep these facilities running. They deserve far better than this betrayal from our Governor and State Legislature. NYSCOPBA will continue to fight relentlessly for their interests and for a correctional system that is safe for staff and incarcerated individuals alike."

NYSCOPBA calls on Governor Hochul and the Legislature to immediately halt these closures, further invest in aggressive recruitment and retention initiatives, and commit to keeping facilities open with appropriate staffing levels.