



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

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***“Keeping New York Safe”***

**Fentanyl Smuggled into Mid-State Correctional Facility Exposes Deadly Failures of the  
HALT Act**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 8, 2026**

Marcy, N.Y. — On March 26, 2026, at approximately 1:38 p.m., an officer conducting a routine pat frisk in a dormitory at Mid-State Correctional Facility recovered multiple pieces of sprayed paper. The contraband was concealed inside a chewing tobacco can in the pocket of an incarcerated individual. Laboratory testing later confirmed the presence of fentanyl. The material was photographed and secured in accordance with department directives.

This incident is part of an ongoing and dangerous pattern of synthetic opioids entering New York’s correctional facilities. Fentanyl-laced paper and other disguised forms of the drug continue to pose a lethal threat to correction officers who must search cells, cubicles, property, and individuals daily.

The HALT Act has stripped the ability to impose meaningful separation or discipline on those who traffic these substances. By design, HALT limits the tools available to maintain order and deter drug activity, allowing networks to operate with reduced consequences.

“Correction officers are out here every day putting their lives on the line to keep fentanyl out of these facilities, and HALT has made their job exponentially more dangerous,” said Bryan Hluska, Central Region Vice President of the New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association (NYSCOPBA). “This law didn’t reform anything—it handed the keys to drug dealers, told violent inmates there are no real consequences, and left officers to clean up the mess with their bare hands. Politicians who rammed HALT through should be forced to explain to the families of officers exposed to this poison why their safety was sacrificed for a failed social experiment. Revise HALT now, before more officers are permanently harmed or killed by the drugs your law helped circulate.”