

**STATEMENT FROM NYSCOPBA PRESIDENT MICHAEL B. POWERS ON  
PROPOSED CHANGES TO SPECIAL HOUSING UNITS**

“Once again, the State is preparing to blindly implement regulations that will critically impact the safety of all individuals inside prison walls. The New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision has just outlined changes to the use of Special Housing Units that will unquestionably make our prisons more dangerous.”

“Just a few years ago, the settlement reached as a result of *Peoples v. Annucci* significantly reformed how Special Housing Units are to be used. Since that time, inmate-on-inmate and inmate-on-staff violence are at all-time highs. And now, the State is hell-bent on changing policy again without fully understanding the ramifications of past and current decisions.”

“We have continuously asked for a study to assess the impacts of the *Peoples v. Annucci* settlement, and have been rebuffed by the Legislature each time. It is time for the DOCCS and the State Legislature to prioritize the safety of everyone inside prison walls, including our correctional officers and sergeants.”