



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

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September 13, 2019

Senator David Carlucci  
New York State Senate  
NYS Capitol Building -- Room 514  
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Carlucci,

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for your leadership and your support for additional funding for programs to assist law enforcement personnel to cope with mental health issues; specifically, programs aimed at assisting law enforcement with issues concerning suicide and PTSD. Unfortunately, NYSCOPBA is no stranger when it comes to dealing with these issues.

As you are aware, NYSCOPBA's members work in some of the most dangerous and volatile working conditions in the state. At some point in their career, nearly every correction officer and security hospital treatment assistant (SHTA) will be in a dangerous situation which could result in long-lasting impacts to their physical and/or mental health. As we have seen more recently, when "the job" and the working conditions are coupled with severe burdens, whether personal or professional, the results could be drastic.

Several years ago NYSCOPBA independently began utilizing a 24/7 confidential crisis hotline to offer a comprehensive array of services to our members and their families with the focus on health, stability and productivity. The objectives of the program are to help our members cope with personal or work related issues. Additionally, in 2016, through labor/management agreements with the State, we coordinated comprehensive training on suicide awareness and prevention to help our members recognize the signs of someone in distress and/or to offer them insights on how to seek professional help, if needed. The training was well-received. More is needed.

Sadly though, the problem persists. We must continue to seek ways to support our law enforcement community to ensure that their mental and physical well-being is being addressed. I offer my support and willingness to work with you to secure the additional funding needed to implement more programs so that the needs of all at-risk individuals are being met. Thank you for your leadership and support on this issue and please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Sawchuk  
Executive Vice President  
NYSCOPBA

TS/djv