



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

102 Hackett Blvd. - Albany, NY 12209
(518) 427-1551 nyscopba@nyscopba.org



NYSCOPBA Brothers and Sisters:

If you are driving through the Albany area, keep a look out for NYSCOPBA's ads urging the state Legislature to take down the double bunks in our prisons. Our billboard ad, which is attached to this email, will appear in two high-traffic areas in Albany, as well as on several CDTA buses traveling in and around the Capital District. The goal is to raise awareness about the inhumane and dangerous practice of double-bunking inmates.

For years, NYSCOPBA has been raising concerns about the unwarranted and out-of-touch practice of double-bunking inmates. Common sense should dictate that the steady decline of the inmate population should have resulted in a less violent environment. However in New York State prisons, violence is at an all-time high. The state needs to take steps to reverse the violent trends that we're all experiencing in our facilities. That is why we are once again calling on the state to properly right-size the prison system by taking down the double bunks — not by closing more prisons. Certainly, the removal of the double bunks is not the "Silver Bullet" to end all violence in our facilities. However, spreading the inmate population out by utilizing already available space is certainly a step in the right direction.

It is time for the state to get back to basics. Medium-security dorms were designed to house 50 inmates. They were not designed to house up to 90 inmates like they did when the inmate population explosion took place in the late 1980's and early 90's. And the dorms are certainly not designed for the 60:1 inmate-to-officer ratio that we are currently saddled with. While still not ideal, 50:1 is manageable and safer, and what was intended when the facilities were constructed.

This is the message that we are delivering in Albany and we need your help to deliver it at home: **Let's get back to the basics. Remove the double bunks and reduce the officer-to-inmate ratio from 60:1 to 50:1. Right-size the system by spreading out the inmates in the space that is available — not by closing more prisons. Tell your elected officials to support A.930 and S.6582 to remove the double bunks from state prisons.**

As we navigate the current legislative session, we will continue to carry this message. As more information becomes available related to the state budget and other legislative matters, I will be sure to share that information with you. In the meantime, stay safe and look out for one another.

In Unity,

Michael B. Powers
President

