

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



PATRICK M. GALLIVAN

March 31, 2020

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
New York State Capitol
Executive Chamber
Albany, New York 12224

Honorable Anthony Annucci
Acting Commissioner
Department of Corrections and Community Supervision
Harriman State Office Campus
1220 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12226

Re. New York State Correctional Employees Use of Personal Protection Equipment

Dear Governor Cuomo and Acting Commissioner Annucci:

The uniformed members of the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), specifically correctional officers, supervisors and parole officers, provide an essential public protection service to New Yorkers. The designated duties of these officials, by design, require close contact with inmates and persons previously incarcerated. As we continue to try to reduce the viral spread of COVID-19, it is incumbent that DOCCS permit these front-line law enforcement officers the ability to use basic personal protection equipment while on-duty.

Unfortunately, over 60 DOCCS employees, including the president of the union representing the State's correctional officers, have tested positive for COVID-19. Authorizing the use of N-95 masks, gloves and disposable smocks will protect both said officers and, importantly, the inmates and those on parole from potential infection.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to combat this virus. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 518-455-3471 or 716-656-8644.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick M. Gallivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Patrick M. Gallivan
Senator, 59th District