

Ranking Minority Member:

Children and Families

Consumer Protection

Domestic Animal Welfare

Committees:

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Social Services

**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



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Senator, 49th District

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March 31, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of the State of New York
Executive Chamber, State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing to you today to respectfully request that you immediately make safety a TOP priority for our DOCCS employees by allowing them the ability to use their own personal protection equipment (PPE's) during the Coronavirus pandemic.

As I am sure you are aware, The New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association (NYSCOPBA) announced yesterday, that Union President Michael B. Powers tested positive for COVID-19. Powers, who is regularly in contact with correction officers from every corner of the state, has been self-quarantining at his home for the last several days.

This news truly confirms that more preventative measures need to be in place throughout the State, including within our prison system. The New York State Department of Corrections should be allowed to take immediate action to further prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus in our state correctional facilities as well as within our DOCCS families. Currently, there are over 60 DOCCS employees and 8 inmates who have tested positive for the Coronavirus and this number is on the rise.

Therefore, I am calling on you to do the right thing and allow all employees working in correctional facilities, mental health facilities, parole offices and other agencies deemed essential, the latitude to use the necessary personal protective equipment (PPEs) to assist in preventing the spread of the Coronavirus; specifically N95 masks, gloves and disposable smocks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James N. Tedisco".

Senator James N. Tedisco
NYS 49th Senate District