

STOP THE PROPOSED CLOSURES OF CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

The Governor has proposed to close the HUDSON, CAMP PHARSALIA, CAMP GABRIELS, & CAMP MT. MCGREGOR CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES operated by the Department of Correctional Services (DOCS).

FACT

Currently DOCS has 6,700 double bunks in medium security facilities, many of which were not constructed to accommodate double-bunks. DOCS is also currently using a large number of temporary beds to house inmates in their facilities. DOCS should not close facilities' when they are using a large number of temporary and double bunk beds to house inmates.

FACT

Minimum and medium security beds should be more widely used to transition inmates out of maximum security facilities and into our communities. In the past DOCS used to "step-down" inmates from maximum security facilities to medium security facilities and finally to minimum security facilities as the inmate got closer to his or her release date. DOCS has changed this procedure and now keeps most inmates in maximum security facilities for a longer period of time. DOCS can make better use of minimum security facilities as part of inmates' transition to the community.

FACT

Crime rates are cyclical and the number of people sent to prison is affected by population and other trends. In times of economic recession, crime tends to increase. Closing these facilities may lead to future capacity shortages and hazardous situations such as increased double-bunking.

FACT

The inmate population at Camps Pharsalia, Gabriels, and Mt. McGregor as well as Hudson has remained relatively constant for two years. Hudson is currently at over 98% of its capacity and is close to a large number of inmates' communities which helps to facilitate successful re-entry into their community.

FACT

Although the State has committed to finding state jobs for the displaced employees, these closures will have a serious negative impact on workers, their families and their communities.

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FACT

Approximately 14,000 inmates in the New York State correctional system are functionally illiterate. About 18,000 read below the eighth-grade level. Approximately 35,000 inmates have not completed high school. About 37,000 inmates admit to prior drug use and approximately 25,000 have serious alcohol abuse problems. DOCS needs more staff not less, to perform their core mission of preparing inmates with serious educational, mental, and drug/alcohol problems for successful reentry into the community.

FACT

Study after study has shown that inmates who earn a high school degree or successfully complete a substance abuse program in prison have significantly lower recidivism rates than inmates who do not complete these programs. Despite this evidence there are thousands of inmates on waiting lists for academic programs, vocational programs, and substance abuse treatment programs that will make their transition into our communities smoother and safer.

FACT

Realistic Caseloads for Teachers and Correction Counselors Work. When the prison population increased, DOCS increased the student ratio from 10 inmates per teacher to 25 inmates per teacher. Correction Counselor caseloads have increased from between 100 and 125 inmates per counselor to between 150 and 215 inmates per counselor. Caseloads must be reduced to their size prior to the expansion of the prison population if educational and treatment programs are to be more effective in giving inmates the skills they need to become law-abiding citizens when released from prison.

KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE!

REDUCE INMATE RECIDIVISM!!

**RESTORE \$10.4 MILLION TO THE DOCS
BUDGET!!!**

**KEEP HUDSON, CAMP PHARSALIA, CAMP
GABREILS, & CAMP MT. MCGREGOR OPEN!!!!**



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