

STOP THE PROPOSED CLOSURES OF CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES & REDUCTIONS IN PROGRAM SERVICES

The Governor has proposed to close the medium security Ogdensburg Correctional Facility, the minimum security Butler and Lyon Mountain Correctional Facilities and the Moriah Shock Incarceration Correctional Facility operated by the Department of Correctional Services (DOCS).

FACT Currently DOCS has thousands of double bunks in medium security facilities, many of which were not constructed to accommodate double-bunks. DOCS is also using a large number of temporary beds in their facilities. DOCS should not close facilities when they are using thousands 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. Most inmates are never allowed to go to a minimum security facility. DOCS can change their own rules to 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. Closing these facilities may lead to future capacity shortages and hazardous situations such as increased double-bunking.

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, particularly in already economically depressed areas in upstate NY which have some of the highest unemployment rates in the state. Moriah is the second largest employer in Essex County, which is already hit hard by the closure of the Champlain Bridge to Vermont and has a 10.3 percent unemployment rate.

FACT Local economies will be further hurt by loss of the work crews from the minimum security prisons who perform services that localities rely on and cannot otherwise afford, such as assistance in emergency response (including forest fires, the North Country ice storm, floods, and Hurricane Floyd), spring cleanup, and park maintenance.

FACT Shock incarceration is a valuable tool in the correctional system. Over \$1 billion has been saved since its inception in operational and capital costs by avoiding incarceration of participants for their entire sentence. Recently enacted Rockefeller Drug Law Reforms have expanded the opportunity for judges to sentence offenders to this program.

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 teacher-to-inmate student ratio from 1 teacher per 10 inmates to 1 teacher per 25 inmates. 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. The proposed additional health and program FTEs in the budget reflect positions which were not filled in the current year.

KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE!

REDUCE INMATE RECIDIVISM BY MAINTAINING CURRENT PROGRAM SERVICES!!

RESTORE \$3 MILLION TO THE DOCS BUDGET!!!

KEEP OGDENSBURG, BUTLER MINIMUM AND LYON MOUNTAIN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES AND THE MORIAH SHOCK INCARCERATION CORRECTIONAL FACILITY OPEN



**New York State
Public Employees Federation, AFL-CIO**
Kenneth Brynien
President

www.pef.org

Arlea Igoe
Secretary-Treasurer

