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# ***SUPPORT***

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S8022\Montgomery**

The New York State Public Employees Federation, representing 58,000 Professional, Scientific, and Technical workers of New York State, supports this legislation.

This bill amends the Correction Law to require more comprehensive annual reporting by the Commissioner of the Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) as to the staffing and capacity of the state prison system. The legislation also enhances the existing 12 month notice required prior to the closure of a DOCS facility to ensure that a detailed analysis of the impact of the closure accompanies the notice.

For the last few years, the budget has consistently called for the closure of multiple DOCS facilities. This is despite the fact that 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. In addition, minimum and medium security beds could be more widely used to transition inmates out of maximum security facilities and into our communities.

This bill will help ensure that prison capacity decisions can be made based on facts not ideology. In addition, if a prison is recommended for closure, it will make certain that the real impact of closures in terms of workforce displacement, community and economy, system capacity, and program availability are known prior to such closure.

For these reasons, the Public Employees Federation urges you to support this legislation.

For more information, please contact:

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