



JOE SEMPOLINSKI
Assemblyman 148th District
Allegany, Cattaraugus, and
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THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY



RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Committee on Mental Health

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People with Disabilities

April 14, 2025

Hon. Amanda L. Chapman, Secretary
Inter-County Association of WNY
c/o Steuben County Legislature
3 East Pulteney Square
Bath, NY 14810

Dear Ms. Chapman,

Thank you for forwarding me the Inter-County Association of WNY's Resolution No. 007-25 memorializing New York State in support of safe working conditions for corrections officers.

Prisons face many challenges all of which are exacerbated by the prevailing staffing crisis. Staffing shortages have led to an increase in dangerous attacks against corrections officers. Increases in mandatory over-time have led to corrections officers being made to work triple shifts, thus fueling increased turnover.

One of the main reasons NYS DOCCS cannot recruit new officers due to the unsafe working conditions caused by the HALT Act. I have called for the immediate repeal of the HALT Act to restore safety to New York's prisons for corrections officers and inmates. The HALT Act has harmed corrections officers and has allowed NYS Prisons to devolve into chaos. Along with the staffing shortages the HALT Act stands in the way of corrections officer's safety.

My thanks to you and the members of the Inter-County Association of WNY for all you do for your constituents. Please accept my best wishes, and feel free to contact me again if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Joe Sempolinski
Member of Assembly

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