

# Inter-County Association of Western New York

% Steuben County Legislature, 3 East Pulteney Square, Bath, New York 14810

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*Representing the Counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates*

## RESOLUTION NO. 008-25

### CALLING FOR THE REPEAL OF THE NEW YORK STATE HUMANE ALTERNATIVES TO LONG-TERM SOLITARY CONFINEMENT ACT (“HALT ACT”).

**WHEREAS**, on March 31, 2021, the Governor signed into law S.2836, known as the Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement Act (“HALT Act”), with an effective date of April 1, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the HALT Act limits segregated [disciplinary] confinement of inmates to the Special Housing Unit (SHU) or in a separate keeplock housing unit to a maximum of fifteen (15) consecutive days, or twenty (20) total days within any sixty (60) day period; and

**WHEREAS**, under the HALT Act, these time limits may not be meaningfully extended even where an inmate has committed such serious acts as attempted escape, physical or sexual assault on staff and other inmates, or even homicide; and

**WHEREAS**, assaults in NYS prisons have increased 124% over the last 10 years, reaching a record number of 1,173 assaults on staff in 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, since the HALT Act went into effect on April 1, 2022, the number of daily assaults in NYS correctional facilities has gone up from 6.8 to 8.1 a day, an increase of 25%; and

**WHEREAS**, the HALT Act essentially eliminates any meaningful disciplinary sanctions for inmates who commit violent acts; and

**WHEREAS**, convicted murderers, career violent criminals, and other dangerous inmates already serving life sentences in particular now have virtually no significant disincentive to commit violent acts while incarcerated; and

**WHEREAS**, by eliminating serious disciplinary sanctions for violent acts committed by inmates in NYS correctional facilities, the HALT Act has effectively incentivized such violent acts; and

**WHEREAS**, the HALT Act has thereby contributed to an increasingly violent environment within NYS correctional facilities, thereby endangering the Correction Officers, civilian staff, and inmates within such facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, even prior to the enactment of the HALT Act, confinement to the SHU did not constitute true “solitary confinement,” and could only be imposed subject to significant procedural safeguards, including notice and a hearing; and

**WHEREAS**, the HALT Act prohibits segregated confinement for “special populations”, if the inmate is 21 years or younger, which is typically the most unpredictable and violent population; and

**WHEREAS**, the HALT Act is causing meaningful programs for general population inmates to be canceled due to lack of staff; the staff that should be instructing these programs are being redeployed to cover the HALT law mandated programs, thus punishing the general population inmates that are complying with facility rules, which causes more idle time and friction inside the facility.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, the Inter-County Association of Western New York, representing 2.9 million citizens in the State of New York, calls upon the New York State Legislature and the Governor to enact immediately legislation repealing S.2836, known as the HALT Act, and restoring the prior inmate disciplinary framework, which provided for meaningful disciplinary sanctions to deter violent conduct by inmates, while also respecting inmates’ procedural and personal rights; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to Honorable Kathy Hochul, New York State Governor; all members of the NYS Senate; all members of the NYS Assembly; the New York State Sheriff’s Association; and the New York State Association of Counties.

**STATE OF NEW YORK)**

**ss.:**

**COUNTY OF STEUBEN)**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution duly adopted by the Inter-County Association of Western New York while in session in Genesee County on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 2025.

Dated: April 2, 2025  
Bath, New York



Amanda L. Chapman, Secretary  
Inter-County Association of Western New York