



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Thomas F. O'Mara

Statement from Senator O'Mara on the strike at the Elmira Correctional Facility

THOMAS F. O'MARA February 17, 2025

| ISSUE: **CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS**



"New York State's correctional system is clearly in crisis," said Senator O'Mara.



New York State's correctional system is clearly in crisis. It has been continually building and growing worse, as many of us have warned, over the past decade of rapid prison closures, increasingly dangerous and demanding working conditions inside prisons, drastic workforce reductions, and the enactment of the HALT Act and other failed policies out of Albany. We need a comprehensive overhaul of safety and security within the system, beginning with the immediate repeal of HALT, for correctional officers, staff and inmates alike, and it needs to be made a priority. The recent, fatal beating of Robert Brooks at the Marcy Correctional Facility in Onondaga County was appalling and disgusting, and it must and will be dealt with through our justice system. What took place there in no way represents the conduct of the vast majority of correctional officers and staff within the Elmira Correctional Facility and facilities throughout the state where officers and staff go to work every day to undertake the duties and responsibilities they're charged with diligently, professionally, and respectfully. Governor Hochul and the Democrat-led State Legislature must also, finally, pay serious and meaningful attention to the concerns that have been raised, for years now, by the officers and staff concerned for their personal safety, the overall security of their facilities, and the future of their families and loved ones."



Senator Tom O'Mara