

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



March 7, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

General Steven S. Nordhaus
Chief of the National Guard Bureau
111 S. George Mason Dr.
Arlington, VA 22204

Dear President Trump,

As we are sure you are aware, New York State's correctional facilities are currently in a crisis thanks to reckless policies passed by Democrats in the State Legislature and signed into law by former Governor Andrew Cuomo. These policies have resulted in unreasonably dangerous working conditions for corrections officers across the State, with record breaking numbers of assaults on prison staff in 2023 and 2024. The extremely dangerous working conditions have led to corrections officers going on strike in 38 of the State's 42 prisons.

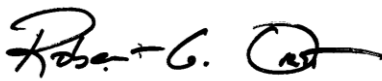
In response, Governor Hochul has deployed nearly 6,500 of the State's National Guard on indefinite orders, with no clear resolution in sight, to state prisons to maintain order. Placing members of the national guard in state prisons during a time of record assaults on staff in state prisons, is a recipe for disaster.

We respectfully request you, as Commander-in-Chief of the National Guard, to federally activate the National Guard members currently serving in the State's correctional facilities, under Title 10 of the United States Code. In activating the National Guard under Title 10, the Guard personnel will be entitled to the same pay, benefits and legal protections as active military members. The benefits under Title 10 include comprehensive healthcare coverage, which we believe is imperative given the dire conditions many of the National Guard are currently serving in. This would allow Guard personnel to have any injuries sustained in correctional facilities rated on the Veterans Affairs Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD) thereby securing eligibility for treatment through the Department of Veterans Affairs rather than receiving less than adequate benefits through NYS Department of Labor or Workers Compensation.

Finally, we encourage your administration to continue to monitor the situation and engage with Governor Hochul when you deem it necessary. Under Section 28 of the New York State Executive Law, whenever the Governor finds that the disaster is of such severity and magnitude that an effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State, she must make an appropriate request for federal assistance available under federal law.

We thank you for your time and consideration on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Ort
Senate Minority Leader
62nd District



Senator Jake Ashby
43rd District



Senator Andrew Lanza
24th District



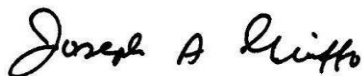
Senator Anthony Palumbo
1st District



Senator Daniel G. Stec
45th District



Senator Rob Rolison
39th District



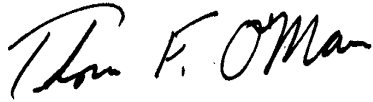
Senator Joseph Griffo
53rd District



Senator Patrick Gallivan
60th District



Senator Mark Walczyk
49th District



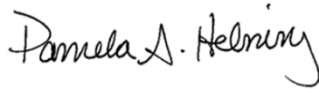
Senator Tom O'Mara
58th District



Senator Alexis Weik
8th District



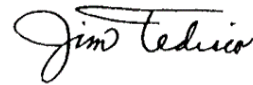
Senator Steve Chan
17th District



Senator Pam Helming
54th District



Senator Dean Murray
3rd District



Senator Jim Tedisco
44th District



Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick
9th District



Senator William Weber
38th District



Senator Mario Mattera
2nd District



Senator Jack M. Martins
7th District



Senator George Borrello
57th District



Senator Steve Rhoads
5th District



Senator Peter Oberacker
51st District