



March 17, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

We write this letter to urge you to rescind Executive Order No. 47.3 which bans 2,000 terminated state correction officers from working at State Agencies and local governments. We believe this Executive Order is punitive and will only have a ripple effect, impacting not only the 2,000 correction officers but also the members of the National Guard that must continue to serve in our prisons.

In a state where employers are barred from inquiring about a job applicant's criminal history, this Executive Order prohibits state and local employment for law enforcement officials whose only sin was standing up for safer working conditions. Providing these correction officers with the opportunity to return to work or seek alternate employment with the State or a locality will not only help them and their families, but it will help the thousands of National Guard members who were called to fill in staffing shortages at prisons throughout the state.

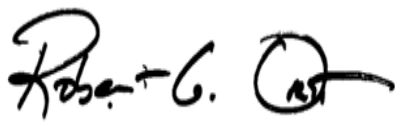
There have been reports of deplorable working conditions for members of the National Guard. As reported by News12 Westchester, one member of the National Guard stated the conditions they were experiencing in the prison were worse than Afghanistan. There have been reports of troops sleeping on dirty floors in buildings with no heat, among other subpar and unsafe conditions.

We continue to hear from family members of the National Guard, many of their sons and daughters who have enlisted are not adequately trained for this type of deployment, and continue to be in harm's way. And, because you have not asked the federal government to mobilize our Guard under Title 10, they continue to not be entitled to the same benefits, protections, and comprehensive health care coverage as our active military members.

The Executive Order also harms county sheriff departments who run county jails. Barring county employment for the 2,000 correction officers means it will be more difficult for county jails to hire correction officers. In addition, our local county prisons have been directed not to transfer inmates to state prisons until at least April 1, resulting in an uptick in their inmate population.

For the aforementioned concerns, we urge you to rescind Executive Order 47.3 immediately.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Ort
Senate Minority Leader
62nd District



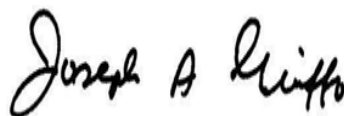
Senator Andrew Lanza
24th District



Senator Daniel G. Stec
45th District



Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick
9th District



Senator Joseph Griffo
53rd District



Senator Jim Tedisco
44th District



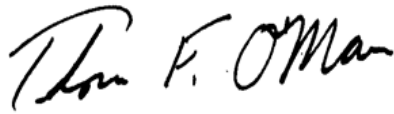
Senator Mario Mattera
2nd District



Senator Anthony Palumbo
1st District



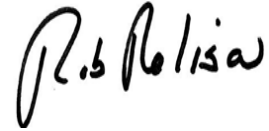
Senator Dean Murray
3rd District



Senator Tom O'Mara
58th District



Senator Patrick Gallivan
60th District



Senator Rob Rolison
39th District



Senator Pam Helming
54th District



Senator George Borrello
57th District



Senator Mark Walczyk
49th District



Senator Jake Ashby
43rd District



Senator Alexis Weik
8th District



Senator William Weber
38th District



Senator Steve Rhoads
5th District



Senator Peter Oberacker
51st District



Senator Steve Chan
17th District



Senator Jack M. Martins
7th District