



OPPOSE

MEMORANDUM IN

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TO

Part M of S.2505 / A.3005 Authorizing the Closure of Correctional Facilities

The CSEA strongly opposes this proposal, which would authorize the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) to close an undetermined number of correctional facilities with only 90-days' notice. This authority would be granted for two State Fiscal Years - FY2022 and FY2023.

This proposal would disregard statutorily-required one-year notice prior to the closure of a DOCCS facility. This law was put into place to give impacted local governments and employees time to plan for a methodical approach to closing facilities and ensuring a smoother transition for inmates, effected communities, and employees.

In addition, closing correctional facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic and placing more inmates in closer proximity to one another is an ill-advised public health strategy. We have seen numerous examples in New York and outside of the state that show how fast COVID-19 can spread in congregate living situations, especially prisons. Consolidating prisoners into less space will only create the potential for new super spreader facilities, placing the health and wellbeing of both inmates and correctional staff at risk.

The legislature should not grant unfettered authority to close additional correctional facilities in any part of the state without one-year notice and a true assessment of future needs.

On behalf of 300,000 active and retired, public and private sector employees, CSEA urges the rejection of this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Turner
Director