



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Joseph A. Griffo

Griffo statement on New York's correctional facilities

JOSEPH A. GRIFFO February 25, 2025

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“I have heard from many about concerns with New York’s correctional facilities and believe that immediate action is needed to ensure that these facilities are safe and secure.

The current environment in the state's prisons reflects poorly on the HALT Act and other failed policies that have been put in place and supported by the legislative majorities and the governor. These problematic policies have created unsafe conditions in these facilities and must be repealed and replaced by initiatives that will ensure the safety and wellbeing of corrections officers and civilian staff.

Additionally, there are critical staffing and overtime challenges that must be addressed, and employees should be given the training, resources and tools that they need to safely do their jobs, including body scanners and drug-detecting equipment and technology.

Through unannounced and announced visits to facilities in my Senate District and important discussions and meetings with stakeholders at all levels, I have gained valuable insight into what is occurring and what is and is not working within the state’s prison system.

I will continue to engage with the governor, DOCCS commissioner and the staff and NYSCOPBA and will advocate for systemwide reform that will bring about needed changes to the state’s correctional facilities.”