



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Christopher J. Ryan

Statement from Senator Ryan on Unsanctioned Prison Strikes in New York State

CHRISTOPHER J. RYAN March 7, 2025

Statement from State Senator Christopher J. Ryan:

“As a lifelong advocate for workers' rights and a former union leader, I understand the frustration that has led to the unsanctioned prison strikes across New York State. The concerns raised—staffing shortages, excessive overtime, health and safety risks, officer wellness, and the impact of the HALT Act—are serious and must be addressed.

I have been in ongoing communication with NYSCOPBA leadership, and I know they are working diligently to resolve this situation. However, these unsanctioned strikes must come to an end. The safety and well-being of everyone involved, including inmates, our correction officers, civilian staff, PEF and CSEA members, and the National Guard members who have stepped in to keep our prisons operational must remain our top priority.

I remain committed to working with all stakeholders to find real, lasting solutions to these pressing issues. We need to ensure that our correctional facilities remain secure and staffed in a way that protects both the workforce, the public and incarcerated individuals. I urge all involved to back their union leadership and return to their posts so we can move forward in a safe, productive and effective manner.”