

JOSEPH A. GRIFFO
SENATOR, 47TH DISTRICT



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April 30, 2010

Thomas P. DiNapoli
State Comptroller
110 State Street
Albany, NY 12236

Joseph Fisch
State Inspector General
Empire State Plaza Agency Bldg. 2
Albany, New York 12223

Dear Comptroller DiNapoli and Inspector General Fisch:

Your recent report on the long standing fraud committed by the former director of the Department of Correctional Services' (DOCS) Food Production Center in Rome exposed an appalling workplace scam that has cost state taxpayers \$500,000 and revealed a shocking lack of internal control within the Department of Correctional Services. These findings demand a much more widespread investigation into the operations of the entire Department.

I strongly request that your offices conduct a similar investigation and audit of all 75 of the Department of Correctional Services' work locations, to ensure that similar practices are not taking place there. I urge you to use the same successful methodologies to investigate every prison from Attica to Queensboro; every drug treatment center; every food processing plant; every work release center; and every administrative office under DOCS control statewide. A full accounting of the prison system will ensure that more taxpayer dollars are not being wasted.

We already know that the fraudulent activities committed by Howard Dean and enabled by DOCS management are not isolated incidents. Recent legislative reports by the Assembly Republican Conference and other state legislators uncovered fiscal irresponsibility and reckless abuse of administrative procedures in other areas of DOCS. A thorough audit and investigation will demonstrate that the scope of the abuse within the Department is not confined to one office and one man.

Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the Commissioner of the Department of Correctional Services to ensure that all state regulations and guidelines are being adhered to by management and staff. While Commissioner Fischer has said that he has delivered a stern message to all superintendents and directors that they must conduct themselves ethically at all times, your additional audit/investigation will measure the success of his efforts.

A comprehensive audit and investigation of DOCS will reveal just how widespread the culture of corruption is within the Department. In a time when New York State faces an unprecedented fiscal deficit and hardworking families are trying to make ends meet, there is simply no room for waste and abuse in state government. I appreciate your serious consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Joseph A. Griffo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Griffo" being more prominent.

Joseph A. Griffo
Senator, 47th Senate District