

**RANKING MEMBER**  
CHILDREN & FAMILIES  
CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME & CORRECTIONS

**COMMITTEE MEMBER**  
AGING  
ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT, LABOR  
(845) 229-0106

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



**ROB ROLISON**  
39<sup>th</sup> District

**ALBANY OFFICE**  
ROOM 613  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
(518) 455-2945

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
3 NEPTUNE ROAD  
SUITE N22  
POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12601

April 14, 2025

Commissioner Daniel F. Martuscello III  
New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision  
1220 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12226

Dear Commissioner Martuscello,

As the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction, and as a former police officer, along with my committee member colleague, we write to you not only as legislators, but as individuals who are deeply concerned about the safety and stability of our prisons.

The Governor's decision to terminate correction officers who demanded safer working conditions has not only destabilized our prisons but endangered lives — including those of the untrained National Guardsmen and women now being asked to fill the void. These officers are not just employees — they are mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, they are experienced professionals who chose public service and were terminated because of a Taylor Law violation.

The current shortage of correction officers presents significant dangers to both staff and the incarcerated. With fewer trained professionals available, the risk of violence and unrest within the facilities increases. This not only jeopardizes the safety of the remaining staff but also the well-being of the incarcerated who rely on a stable and secure environment.

Now, the state is contemplating releasing incarcerated individuals early to compensate for the shortage. That is not a solution, it's a dangerous shortcut that compromises public safety.

The Governor holds the solution to this crisis but must prioritize the needs of our corrections system and put the safety of the public first. Reinstating the terminated trained corrections officers would be a start in addressing the staffing shortage that existed prior to their actions, making our prisons and staff safer and more secure. This is a straightforward and effective solution that must be implemented immediately.

It is imperative that both the Governor and DOCCS reexamine existing policies and implement meaningful reforms that improve conditions inside our prisons, while continuing to protect crime victims. The Governor, who has championed second chances through legislation like the Clean Slate Act, must extend that principle here by pardoning the officers who were terminated, and giving the commissioner's office the authority to rehire those who can restore order and safety.

The Governor must act now and give DOCCS the power to bring back the staff who have the experience and who are willing to return. Safety is at stake in our facilities, and we cannot afford any delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Rolison". The letters are cursive and fluid, with the first name "Rob" and last name "Rolison" clearly distinguishable.

Senator Rob Rolison  
39th Senate District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dean Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style, with "Dean" and "Murray" connected.

Senator Dean Murray  
3rd Senate District