



PAULA ELAINE KAY
Assemblymember 100th District

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October 23, 2025

Commissioner Daniel F. Martuscello III
NYS DOCCS
Harriman State Campus
1220 Washington Ave.
Albany, NY 12226

Dear Commissioner:

I am writing as a plea for the hard-working men and women living in our prison system without having committed any crimes. The New York State prisons system are run by our mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, friends, and neighbors – people who enter prison walls every day to keep our communities safe. The environment that our Correctional Officers work in are dangerous, and there are already assumed risks that come with putting on the uniform. Continued exposures to lethal drugs is not one of those assumed risks.

Throughout this past year, my office has fielded calls from Correctional Officers across New York State who feel hopeless because the State of New York has not done enough to protect them from these exposures. I've spoken to COs directly in my district who operate Woodbourne Correctional Facility, and the situation is simply untenable. We must act before this crisis turns deadly for one of our hardworking officers.

I am hereby requesting full investigations into all of the incidents of exposures that have occurred among both incarcerated individuals AND staff of ALL the New York State prisons from January 1, 2025, to the present. Furthermore, until we gain an understanding as to the scope and resolution of this problem, I am calling for a suspension of all paper mail and tobacco use within the facilities.

There is simply too much at stake and each day that goes by without resolving this situation is a potential loss of life.

Sincerely,

Paula Elaine Kay
Member of Assembly
100th District

CC: The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York