



PENNSYLVANIA STATE CORRECTIONS OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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Patrolling the Toughest Blocks in the State

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March 26, 2018

Dear Senator Argall:

On behalf of the men and women of the Pennsylvania State Corrections Officers Association (PSCOA), I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 748, the Public Safety Facilities Closure Act, which is expected to be considered today by the full Senate.

The closing of any public safety facility, particularly a State Correctional Institution (SCI), is a threat to the safety and economy of the communities where the facilities are located and an even greater personal threat to the families and livelihoods of workers who staff the threatened facilities. They should not be blindsided by a seemingly arbitrary decision to close a facility that has deep roots in the community.

Senate Bill 748 is a positive step in creating a more open and transparent process to be followed when considering closing public safety facilities across the Commonwealth. It specifies a deliberate timeframe and process the Commonwealth must utilize when announcing the intention to close a public safety facility. It will also give the affected communities an important opportunity to present a case as to why their public safety facility should not be closed and, in turn, allows the Commonwealth agencies to make their case to the community.

Recent prison closures, and threats of closures, have created profound distress within communities which are home to the facilities that have been identified for possible closure. We believe this legislation will provide the necessary procedures to help ease the anxiety communities face when confronted with these difficult situations.

For these reasons we ask that you **vote in favor Senate Bill 748** when it is brought before the full Senate for consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason Bloom
President