



New York State
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
FEDERATION AFL-CIO
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT
100 State Street, Suite 1070
Albany, NY 12207

Kenneth Brynien, *President*

1-800-724-4997
1-518-432-4003
Fax: 1-518-432-7739

Arlea Igoe, *Secretary Treasurer*

SUPPORT

January 9, 2008
A5829\John
S4828\Robach

The New York State Public Employees Federation, representing 58,000 Professional, Scientific, and Technical workers of New York State, supports this legislation.

Section 47 of the Workers Compensation Law creates a presumption that certain types of blood-borne diseases such as Hepatitis C were caused by an exposure that occurred in the performance of their work, making the disease, and necessary treatment, eligible for workers compensation coverage. At present, this law applies to corrections officers and certain other security and court personnel. This bill would amend Section 47 to add to the list of covered employees the workers in the Office of Mental Health and all employees of the Department of Correctional Services. These non-uniformed employees are exposed to these workplace hazards to an extent that is equal to the exposure of corrections officers. There is no valid reason why they should not be offered equal coverage in the event that they develop a serious illness as a result.

For these reasons, the Public Employees Federation urges you to support this legislation.

For more information, please contact:

Brian F. Curran, Legislative Director and Counsel