

May 24, 2022

RE: Amend "Less Is More" (S.9266/A.9500)

Dear Legislator:

As a taxpayer, a constituent and a member of the New York State Public Employees Federation, I urge you to pass legislation to correct the recently passed "Less Is More" law which deals with reincarceration of parolees who violate the terms of their parole (S.9266 by Sen. Addabbo/A.9500 by Asm. Wallace).

Chapter 427 of the Laws of 2021 made drastic changes to the ways DOCCS Parole Officers perform their jobs to protect the public. Formerly incarcerated individuals can be placed back into custody for a wide range of violations. However, the new law limits the ability of Parole Officers to keep those who willfully violate the terms and conditions of their release off of the streets.

The proposed amendment would:

1. Include offenders convicted of firearms and kidnapping offenses and failure to register on the sex offender registry as being subject to the violation process
2. Establish a "red flag" provision for individuals whose violations constitute a threat to themselves and/or others
3. Enables judges to negate potential incarceration for absconders who voluntarily turn themselves in to the Parole Officer or regional office

These common sense changes are needed to correct the elimination of too many parole conditions being removed from the list of those allowing for re-incarceration.

I urge you to support this legislation to help keep our communities safe and allow Parole Officers to effectively perform the job for which they were hired.

Sincerely,