



## Correcting the “HALT” and “Less is More” Laws

Dear Legislator:

As a constituent and a state employee represented by the Public Employees Federation (PEF), I urge you to consider amendments to the recently enacted “HALT” and “Less is More” laws be included in the final budget. Both of these laws are well-intentioned and serve an honorable purpose. However, some of the changes have had unintended consequences impacting the safety of the public, state employees and incarcerated individuals.

While the state’s prison population has been reduced by half over the last decade, assaults by incarcerated individuals, both against other incarcerated individuals and staff, have risen dramatically, especially over the last three years. Currently, many individuals seek placement in the Special Housing Unit (SHU) for their safety or because of the additional mental health services offered there. It is imperative that the state be able to expand its Residential Rehabilitation Units (RRUs) to provide treatment for those who continually assault other incarcerated individuals or staff.

Additionally, proposed changes to “Less is More” will increase public safety by allowing for the rearrest of those who commit violent crimes with guns or other dangerous weapons, commit kidnapping or fail to register on the sex offender registry. A new “red flag” provision will help determine which parolees are likely to be rearrested and better enforce the conditions of their release. A judge should be able to determine if a parolee’s use of drugs and alcohol or failure to attend programs -- if those were factors in their original conviction -- is likely to lead them to reoffend.

Both “HALT” and “Less is More” have been partially successful criminal justice reforms. However, amendments to both laws need to be implemented in order for them to be deemed an unqualified success.

As my elected representative, I kindly ask that you work with the leadership in your house to amend the recently enacted “HALT” and “Less is More” laws to fix some of the flaws that have come to light. Thank you for your time, attention and consideration of this very important issue.

Sincerely,

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