



PENNSYLVANIA STATE CORRECTIONS OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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*****Patrolling the Toughest Blocks in the State*****

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July 20, 2026

Superintendent Lindsay Kendall
SCI-Camp Hill
P.O. Box 8837
2500 Lisburn Road
Camp Hill, PA 17001-8837

Dear Superintendent Kendall:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania State Corrections Officers Association, I am writing to express our profound concern over the escalating level of violence at SCI-Camp Hill and to urge immediate action to restore the safety and security of the institution.

The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections' own data makes clear that violence at SCI-Camp Hill is moving in the wrong direction.

According to Department of Corrections statistics, SCI-Camp Hill recorded 14 staff assaults during all of 2025. Through just the first four months of 2026, the institution had already experienced 20 staff assaults — nearly a 43% increase over the entire previous year before one-third of this year had elapsed.

The Department's own figures also show that SCI-Camp Hill recorded 61 total violent incidents during all of 2025. Through April 2026, the institution had already matched that total. Those are not the Pennsylvania State Corrections Officers Association's numbers. They are the Department of Corrections' own statistics, and they demonstrate that violence at SCI-Camp Hill is accelerating despite existing intervention strategies.

These statistics are more than numbers. They represent corrections officers, civilian employees, medical staff and other professionals who report to work each day expecting to return home safely to their families.

The recent stabbing of a female corrections officer in the face on L Block underscores the seriousness of this crisis. Following that assault, only a brief lockdown was conducted. A short lockdown does not provide sufficient time to thoroughly search housing units, recover homemade weapons, identify additional contraband or conduct a complete investigation into how such a serious assault occurred.

We fear that dangerous weapons remain hidden throughout housing units because comprehensive searches are not consistently conducted following major incidents. Until complete searches are performed,

neither staff nor inmates can have confidence that those weapons have been recovered. Every serious assault should trigger a thorough search to locate homemade weapons, remove contraband, identify those responsible and restore the security of the institution before normal operations resume.

The Department's Violence Reduction Initiative was intended to improve institutional safety, but the Department's own data demonstrates that the current approach is not achieving its intended results at SCI-Camp Hill. Short-duration lockdowns do not send a meaningful message to violent inmates, nor do they provide investigators with sufficient time to recover weapons, identify those responsible and disrupt ongoing criminal activity within the institution.

The Pennsylvania State Corrections Officers Association respectfully urges SCI-Camp Hill to immediately implement the following measures following serious assaults or significant violent incidents:

- Conduct a minimum 36-hour lockdown of affected housing units to allow for comprehensive searches and investigations.
- Suspend visitation and other inmate privileges until comprehensive searches have been completed and officials can account for weapons and other dangerous contraband.
- Ensure every housing unit involved in a serious assault is thoroughly searched so that homemade weapons and other contraband are recovered and those responsible are held accountable.
- Re-evaluate the implementation of the Violence Reduction Initiative at SCI-Camp Hill and make whatever changes are necessary to prioritize staff safety and institutional security.

Correctional institutions are inherently dangerous environments, and our members understand that reality. They should never be expected to work in an institution where known security threats are allowed to persist because facilities return to normal operations before comprehensive searches and investigations have been completed.

Every serious assault that is met with only a brief lockdown sends the wrong message. It tells violent inmates that meaningful consequences are unlikely while telling corrections professionals that their safety is secondary. The Department's own data shows the current strategy is not reversing the trend. Instead, it demonstrates that violence is escalating.

The Pennsylvania State Corrections Officers Association respectfully requests that SCI-Camp Hill immediately strengthen its response to institutional violence by implementing a minimum 36-hour lockdown following serious incidents, conducting comprehensive searches and ensuring every available step is taken to remove dangerous weapons and contraband before normal operations resume.

Our members deserve nothing less than a workplace where every reasonable measure is taken to protect their safety.

Should you require further information, please contact the Association office at (717)364-1700

Sincerely,



Michael Ohler
President
Pennsylvania State Corrections Officers Association