



MEDIA ADVISORY FOR DEC. 1, 2009

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AFSCME Correctional Union Comments on Prison Closure

Statement from AFSCME Local 387 President Dwayne Bickford:

“Governor Rell’s decision to close a state prison in a system that is already overcrowded with inmates and understaffed with front-line workers does not make sense. We believe Connecticut’s prison system was set up to handle 15,000 inmates but currently houses more than 18,000 inmates. Overcrowding is dangerous. It leads to higher incidents of assault on correctional staff and between inmates. Closing Webster will put greater strain on already other overburdened facilities and services. Our correctional employees walk Connecticut’s toughest beat, and we will continue to do everything in our power to keep Connecticut safe. Shutting down a prison like Webster is ill-advised. It will not improve public safety.”

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Council 4 AFSCME represents 35,000 employees in Connecticut, including nearly 5,000 front-line correctional employees in Locals 387, 391 and 1565. Local 387 represents the Cheshire Area Correctional Complex.