

DAVID G. ARGALL
29TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

SCHUYLKILL & PORTIONS OF
BERKS, CARBON, LEHIGH, MONROE
& NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES

SENATE BOX 203029
THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3029
(717) 787-2637
FAX: (717) 783-8657

HAMBURG	(610) 562-3411
MAHANOY CITY	(570) 773-0891
MONROE COUNTY	(570) 402-1499
POTTSVILLE	(570) 621-3400
SLATINGTON	(610) 760-9805
TAMAQUA	(570) 668-1240



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WEBSITE: senatorargall.com

EMAIL: dargall@pasen.gov

TOLL FREE: 1-877-327-4255

TO: All Senators
FROM: Senator Dave Argall 
DATE: June 22, 2012
SUBJECT: Corrections Officers Bill of Rights

In the near future I will be introducing legislation that will create the Corrections Officers Bill of Rights. This legislation will ensure that Pennsylvania's corrections officers maintain certain rights and will provide them with the ability to appeal during disciplinary proceedings.

The Corrections Officers Bill of Rights is being introduced in light of recent headlines regarding abuse allegations at SCI Pittsburgh. Eight corrections officers were suspended without pay and benefits for almost a year without the ability to ask questions related to why they were suspended or to defend themselves. These officers were never even given the benefit of a hearing.

I strongly believe, as does the leadership of the Pennsylvania State Corrections Officers Association, that any corrections officer found guilty of a crime should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. This legislation would guarantee the preservation of constitutional rights for our corrections officers.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Susan Bentzel in my office at 7-2637 or at sbentzel@pasen.gov.