

Scott Charlton  
Warren - MSP CO-1

I am a corrections officer at Maine State Prison in Warren. I have been since 2008. I have seen short staffing, and many dangerous situations. none so bad as it is now. the \$5/hr covid pay/hazard pay was great to keep those that were on the edge of the fence on leaving our facility. When we lost the hazard pay due to funding in Decmeber 2020 we lost staff that the covid pay was helping to stick around. Now we are losing staff every week, either due to covid effects on their family, their childcare, or their own well-being. we are REQUIRED to show up to work. we are told to go in a pod, do rounds in an enclosed pod for 12+ hours wearing an N-95 mask that is rated only to be worn for 8hours and given only a 20 minute lunch-break, and cannot leave the facility. we are constantly in harms way, and often if a situation arises social distancing is NOT a possibility. understaffing will also be helped by having this hazard pay. Staff are more than willing to volunteer for overtime... that hazard pay makes the OT "worth it". Maine State Prison system has been extremely lucky that our situation has not fallen to Covid-19, thanks to the good work and dilligence of the frontline staff at our facilities. they should all be commended and awarded what is fair. Pay your staff what they are worth. Thank you.