

Myles Reid
Warren

Good Morning All,

I want to first take a moment to first appreciate those who are here in an attempt to support the Corrections and Mental Health fields of our great state. I do want to thank especially Rep. Bill Pluecker for your continued support in our respective fields. This is appreciated, and does not go unnoticed. Thank you.

My name is Myles Reid, a Corrections Officer at the Maine State Prison. I have been at this facility now for the past three years. I have seen decent days, I have seen bad days. The past 12 months was a year of bad days. Living inside N95 masks for 12 to 15 hours a day (Anyone who has had to wear these understands how physically exhausting, and mentally claustrophobic they are), ensuring that all residents under your care and supervision were properly wearing theirs, (No easy feat), and knowing that at the end of the day, you still may bring this pandemic home to your family.

When this pandemic first started, the state as an employer pulled a large portion of its working force out of their offices, and instructed them to work safely from home. We in Corrections were told we still needed to continue coming to work, as we were essential. To compensate us for being expected to continue working in this dangerous environment we received a \$5 an hour stipend. While this didn't fix the issue, it did soften the blow. It allowed us an opportunity to stress less about the bills at the home front, while being stressed and exhausted due to our working environment.

In January my stress level again increased. The pandemic continued, my risk of bringing it home continued, but the hazard pay stopped. I repeat it as I feel it bears repeating... The Hazard continued, but my pay to compensate for said hazard did not. Those who were asked to work from home got to continue doing so in safety. This decision was a reminder that we in Corrections are out of sight, out of mind, and therefore do not matter.

I implore you, as our State Legislature; remind us that we in Corrections matter. Pay us what the state committed to pay us through the pandemic.

Again, thank you,
Officer Myles Reid