

curtiss doyle
corrections

Good Morning:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you all today. My name is Sgt. Curtiss Doyle and I have been employed at the Maine State Prison for almost 27 years now. The Covid-19 epidemic changed all of our world's in ways I thought impossible, until it happened. I am sure all of you can relate to changes in your respective places of employment. That statement is an understatement for all of us who work behind the walls and in the shadows as it relates to being recognized for the dangerous job we do on a daily basis. When you work in a maximum-security prison you are accepting those dangers both seen and unseen. The Covid-19 epidemic brought the dangers for us and our families to a whole new level. Many of my fellow state employees were allowed to work from home and some still are I believe. The essential employees were not; there can be no more essential employee than public servants. Correctional employees are most certainly essential public employees we all will agree. I can recall some of my coworkers having apprehension about coming to work during this pandemic and still do today. I know for myself I would often question, "Is it worth it to risk my health and well being during this time"? I (we) also had to consider the risks to our families, some like myself have family members that are very high risk as it relates to the Covid virus. This decision was made every day by myself and coworkers the moment we punched in to go to work. While the hazard pay helped us make our decision, it was not made without serious consideration of the risk factors. I will freely admit that the hazard pay was welcomed and quite honestly earned every day during that time period. I recall coming to work one day and being informed that the hazard pay had been stopped. I could not get a clear answer as to why; what I did know is that Covid-19 hadn't stopped and neither has the health risk. I on behalf of all of my fellow correctional officers we are requesting that the hazard pay be reinstated to include all back pay earned. I want to thank you for your time and I know you all will make the right decision just like we all did when we should up to work every day.