



# The State Employees' Association Of New Hampshire, Inc.

Service Employees International Union, Local 1984, CTW, CLC

April 9, 2021

## **President Rich Gulla, Regarding the States' Youth Detention Center Allegations**

We are incredibly disheartened to learn about the allegations surrounding the Youth Detention Center here within the state. Our hearts go out to the young people and their family members who have been affected.

These facilities and the staff working in them have a profound responsibility to provide for the safety of both those in their custody and the public. While we believe that a complete and thorough investigation is warranted and necessary to determine exactly what took place and how best to help the young people who have been hurt, we also need to remember that this lawsuit needs to be tried in a court of law and not in sensational headlines.

The lawsuits being filed are against the staff of the NH Youth Detention Center for actions purportedly committed in the '80s and '90s before the Sununu Youth Service Center was developed. While the allegations are genuinely horrific, we have a responsibility to let the process go through court before condemning the system and what has allegedly taken place.

Many dedicated employees have provided incredible services for children in crisis throughout the years. Many clients in this same system have turned their lives around to become productive adults because of the services they received at these facilities.

We join the call to investigate all allegations and support the efforts of all those involved in this process as we learn more and get an accurate accounting of what has taken place.