



Program Review and Investigations Committee Public Hearing Testimony -  
February 29, 2016

**Concerns Regarding HB 5346, An Act Concerning State Agency  
Confidentiality Based on a Program Review and Investigations  
Committee Study**

Chairman Fonfara, Chairman Carpino and Members of the Program Review and Investigations Committee. We are Colin Provost (president of Local 391), Mike Tuthill (president of Local 1565) and Rudy Demiraj (president of Local 387) speaking for Council 4 AFSCME, a union of 35,000 public and private employees. Our members make up the bulk of the Department of Correction workforce.

Our union urges you to please be very careful in the area of databases concerning sensitive state employee information. Our members' addresses and phone numbers are shielded. This is because correction employees around the country have been targeted for harassment, threatening, violence and murder because of the jobs that they are sworn to do.

Our members' jobs are stressful enough. A recent Florida study shows that correction employees die on average at age 63. This is 16 years earlier than the typical citizen. A recent federal study showed that 30% of correction employees suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. A state of New Jersey study found that suicide among correction employees is substantially higher than that of other law enforcement officers.

The ability of hackers to gain access to databases is of great concern to us and other shielded state employees such as police officers, judges and prosecutors. If there is not sufficient reason to compile existing or create new databases it may well be better to not do so.

Thank you for taking our message into consideration. We are happy to provide any information regarding our concerns.