



Lackawanna County

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Testimony On The Value Of SCI Waymart Facility By Commissioner Patrick M. O'Malley

"Closing SCI Waymart would have a devastating effect on Northeastern Pennsylvania. The facility has 732 employees who have families to care for.

Over 390 people from Lackawanna County are employed at the Waymart facility at salaries totaling over \$60 million. The loss of these positions and wages would impact these families tremendously.

The prison has a \$100 million budget. Closure would do irreparable harm to the small businesses and service providers in Lackawanna Wayne Counties who do business with the prison and depend on that revenue stream.

Moving inmates and staff to another facility would create another set of issues. Corrections Officers, who accept a transfer, would be separated from their families. Security would also be a major problem. Corrections Officers' well-being would be at a greater risk having to monitor a significant increase in inmates in a larger space by themselves or with little assistance.

Also of vital importance is the care provided in the forensic treatment unit at the facility. It is imperative that SCI Waymart remain open to serve the mental health needs of those incarcerated there.

As a former Corrections Officer, I have transported prisoners to this facility. It takes a special type of individual to do this work in a cautious, but compassionate manner. That's how it is done here.

I strongly urge the legislature to keep SCI Waymart open, and I will join forces with our region's elected officials and prison management to see that this happens to protect our families and the economy of Northeastern Pennsylvania."

Patrick M. O'Malley
Chairman, Lackawanna Board of Commissioners