



New York State
**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
FEDERATION AFL-CIO**

1168-70 Troy-Schenectady Road
P.O. Box 12414
Albany, NY 12212-2414

(518) 785-1900
(800) 342-4306
Fax (518) 785-1814

December 15, 2009

OFFICERS:

Kenneth Brynien
President

Arlea Gabe Igoe
Secretary-Treasurer

Patricia Baker
Tom Comanzo
Joe Fox
Vice Presidents

REGIONAL COORDINATORS:

Kevin Hintz
Region 1

Bonnie Wood
Region 2

John Prince
Region 3

Donald Kehoskie
Region 4

Mary Twitchell
Region 5

Kevin Conley
Region 6

Tom Donahue
Region 7

William Wurster
Region 8

Neila Cardus
Region 9

Vernetta Chesimard
Region 10

Jemma Marie-Hanson
Region 11

Doris Dodson
Region 12

TRUSTEES:

Gail Noble
Adam Sumlin
Olubiyi Sehindemi



The Daily Gazette
Letter to the Editor
2345 Maxon Road Extension
Schenectady, NY 12308

Daily Gazette

Dear Editor,

Your editorial "Fix New York's broken juvenile justice system" takes a cheap shot at the Public Employees Federation's response to the governor's task force report. The task force found that "there are...some private and state-operated facilities in New York that do offer positive, rehabilitative environments." PEF's goal is to build on those successes by supporting many of the recommendations of the task force including the improvement of educational and mental health services. The task force recognized what PEF has contended for years, that insufficient staffing has contributed to the system's lack of success. The task force specifically recommends that the state provide funding to ensure that all placement facilities are adequately staffed to serve youth needs.

Furthermore, PEF supports placement of youth in the least restrictive program only when there are programs that meet both the youth's service needs and the public's need for safety. We do not believe that existing programs are adequate to meet those needs for our most seriously troubled youth, as demonstrated by the murder of a group home employee in Lockport and the shooting of a police officer in Rochester by youth placed by OCFS in community based programs.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Brynien,
President