



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

September 2, 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**

Nella Cardus  
**Region 9**

Vernetta Chesimard  
**Region 10**

Jemma Marie-Hanson  
**Region 11**

Doris Dodson  
**Region 12**

**TRUSTEES:**

Gail Noble  
Adam Sumlin  
Olubiyi Sehindemi



Daily News  
Letters to the Editor  
4500 West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10001

Dear Editor,

Bill Hammond's diatribe blaming the State's public employees unions for the condition of New York's juvenile justice system (September 1) smacks of unfounded, opportunistic union bashing. The teachers, counselors and mental health professionals represented by the Public Employee's Federation have devoted their entire careers to improving the future of youth in their care. PEF has long advocated for reforms that will benefit youth. We accepted the invitation to be on the governor's juvenile justice task force because we are committed to reform. We defend the programs that work, such as the small residential programs that the Commissioner has been closing.

Hammond is flat out wrong about union obstructionism. Let's not forget that the workers and the unions are not setting the policies or agendas of OCFS. If anything, our attempts to influence policy have been rebuffed. PEF and other state unions have long been loud advocates for a safe, therapeutic environment for troubled youth. Had our voice been heard perhaps the Justice Department's investigation would not have been necessary.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Brynien,  
President