



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*

Artea 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



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

Dear Editor,

In your article "The triple outrage of youth jails" December 15, you point out the success of the Missouri model of juvenile justice. As a member of the Task Force on Transforming Juvenile Justice, I support the more therapeutic form of justice proven successful in Missouri. Yet facilities in upstate New York, similar to that model are the very ones repeatedly targeted for closure. If treatment of youth is really the priority, why shut down the state's best resource for treatment? You note our youths are placed in facilities "hundreds of miles away from their families and friends." Let's not forget the intent is often to remove youths from the dysfunctional environment in which they committed their crime. And you reference many of the youths are in facilities for "nothing worse than a misdemeanor." That is an oversimplification. Many of the youths pled down from violent crimes.

There is no question the system is broken. We have for years raised red flags pointing out many of the same problem areas identified by the task force. Our legislative leaders should put the best interest of our troubled youths and the safety of our communities first when implementing reform. And in the interest of accountability, they should also take a hard look at the person responsible for operating the agency now deemed a failure.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Brynien,  
President