



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

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Kenneth Brynien
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To the editor,

The Times has apparently swallowed OCFS Commissioner Carrion's line of demonizing the unions hook, line and sinker ("Juvenile Injustice", Jan 6). When the Department of Justice calls for additional resources for mental health and education services it is considered advancing the civil liberties of incarcerated youth. When the unions call for these same resources it is portrayed as sordid self interest. The Public Employees Federation has publicly supported the placement of juvenile offenders in the least restrictive environment, including Missouri Model type programs. We insist however, that there is no evidence that community based programs are able to both address the complex behavioral and social needs typical of New York's juvenile offenders, and also to protect the public. Commissioner Carrion has not provided evidence of either, and currently has no method to assess a youth's dangerousness before release. We urge caution, not obstruction.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Brynien
President, NYS Public Employees Federation

(518) 785-1900 ext. 211
1168-70 Troy-Schenectady Road
Albany, NY 12212
kbrynien@pef.org

