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Syracuse Post Standard

Dear Editor,

I agree with one point in your recent editorial on New York's youth detention facilities. We need to reform the juvenile justice system. Unfortunately, Office of Children and Family Services Commissioner Gladys Carrion is not reforming the system, she is destroying it. By dumping our troubled youth in privately run facilities, as the state wants to do, Commissioner Carrion is shifting the responsibility of rehabilitating youth to a less accountable, less transparent program. By refusing to place youth in adequately secure settings staff are being put at risk. By refusing to provide safe, secure and adequately staffed facilities there is no rehabilitation.

Twenty months ago, the commissioner had an opportunity to reform the agency. Instead of talking to the experts, the people who have been involved in juvenile justice for their entire professional lives, she tried to implement her misguided agenda. Today it is clear OCFs, our troubled youths, their families and our communities have suffered under the current administration's lack of leadership. Our juvenile justice system can be repaired with all of us working together toward real reform not by validating the ill-advised decisions that have been made.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Brynien,  
President