



New York State
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March 27, 2008

New York Times
Letters to the Editor
620 Eighth Avenue
New York, NY 10018

To the Editor:

The discussion regarding the future of New York State's juvenile justice system has become emotionally charged and its coverage noticeably one-sided.

There has been no discussion about how these targeted facilities have been deliberately emptied. The state is now paying for these children to be in private programs while also paying for the facilities to remain open as required by law.

There is also cause to question the effectiveness of the at-home programs for those children with complex needs who are currently in state programs. The state was unable to identify appropriate youth for its own Evidence based Community Initiatives (EbCI) program. Furthermore, the state has not released an evaluation of these programs that was due last July. We understand that their own evidence shows the programs did not work.

We all want the best services for these children, in the least restrictive setting. Let's look at all the facts before eliminating treatment options.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Brynien
President