



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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The Buffalo News

Dear Editor,

The Buffalo News got it nearly right in its editorial on the Juvenile Justice System. The New York State Public Employees(PEF) also supports the Task Force's recommendations, many of which we have advocated for over the past couple of years and long before this report came out. The short staffing, lack of training and resources has been woefully inadequate to deal with the myriad of problems these troubled youths are experiencing. The fact that Ms. Greco was killed in Lockport and a policeman was shot in Rochester only reinforces PEF's position.

It's not all bad either. The task force found that "some private & state operated facilities in New York that do offer positive rehabilitative environments." PEF's goal is to build on these successes by improving educational, health, and mental health services. We also support the Missouri Model for treating our troubled youth, which calls for small facility type settings with adequate staff to provide the education and much needed intervention. However OCFS has and continues to target these very types of facilities for closure. Lastly the risk that these youth present to public safety is understated. Many of them have pled down from more serious crimes and/or failed in community placements. Only age prevents their placement in adult prisons.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hintz,  
PEF Region 1 Coordinator