Don't abandon New York's troubled youth. Privatizing youth facility programs could lead to abuse, corruption and higher costs.

Effective treatment for troubled youth requires a commitment to consistency and quality services — services best provided by the state workforce.

The New York State Executive Budget lays out plans to privatize the operation of minimum-security youth facility programs — a practice that is failing miserably in other parts of the country where young adults in privatized facilities have been abused, neglected and raped.

The State Executive budget also proposes to close three group homes which provide a safe refuge for the state's troubled youth in Brooklyn, Mount Vernon and Gloversville. These closures may still happen despite the legislature's agreement to keep them open.

We need to stop these misguided proposals to privatize the care of our most vulnerable youth and close group homes that provide them a safe refuge.

Don't abandon New York's troubled youth. Stop the privatization of youth services and keep group homes open.

Call 1-877-255-9417, tell your state leaders to adopt the Assembly's proposal to prohibit the privatization of youth facilities.

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