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NY**



*#MoneyTalks*

## **RAISE THE AGE, AND TREAT KIDS LIKE KIDS**

**New York and North Carolina are the only two states that start the age of adult criminal responsibility at 16.** This means **teenagers wind up in adult correctional facilities like Riker's Island** and are tried in adult criminal court, often resulting in lifelong criminal records. Youth housed in adult facilities are also at considerably **higher risk of being injured and/or sexually assaulted** and are much **more likely to commit suicide**.

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:** The Democrats and Governor Cuomo want to **increase the age of responsibility to 18 and move these trials to family court**. The Democratic Assembly's plan also calls for an additional \$5 million to fund these changes and to improve facilities for youth. The IDC says they support it, but in actuality they outlined the exact same proposal as the Republicans and Simcha Felder.

**Actions speak louder than words:** the IDC is allowing the Party of Trump to water down Raise the Age, so that even if a bill with that name passes, it won't protect 16 and 17 year olds from adult incarceration, abuse, and recidivism. **Why not pass the Democratic version of Raise the Age that includes the strongest protections for kids?**

**WE CAN'T LET THEM GET AWAY WITH THIS.**

### **What is the IDC?**

The Independent Democratic Conference (IDC) – led by Bronx State Senator Jeff Klein – is a group of **turncoat NY State Senators who were elected to office as Democrats but have a “majority coalition” with Republicans, giving them control of the Senate**. They include: Marisol Alcantara (Manhattan), Tony Avella (Queens), David Carlucci (Rockland), Jesse Hamilton, (Brooklyn), Jeff Klein (Bronx), Jose Peralta (Queens), Diane Savino (Staten Island) and David Valesky (Syracuse area).

**The IDC get personal perks in exchange for empowering the Republicans**, like better office space, bigger staff budgets, and more computers. They also get allocations for their district, underfunding the rest of the state.

### **Who is Simcha Felder?**

A Brooklyn State Senator who runs on the Democratic, Republican and Conservative Party lines, and caucuses with the Republicans to get more for his district.

### **The Senate Republicans love Donald Trump**

They are **100% anti-choice** and **anti-LGBT**. They promote **anti-immigrant legislation** that harms entire communities.

### **The IDC has NO real influence to push progressive legislation**

As disgraced Republican former Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos said about the IDC: **“[Jeff Klein] is going to be co-coalition leader, which means nothing**. I'm going to be president of the senate, I'm going to be majority leader, I'm going to control everything. I'm going to control who is on what committees, what legislation comes to the floor, the budget—everything.” There's no reason to think this arrangement has changed under current Republican Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan.

**By giving the Republicans control of the NY State Senate, the IDC and Simcha Felder have let them block:**

- **DREAM Act** to provide tuition assistance to children of undocumented immigrants
- **NYS Liberty Act** to protect immigrants by making NY a Sanctuary State
- **Reproductive Health Act** to codify Roe v. Wade in New York law
- **GENDA** to protect LGBT New Yorkers from discrimination
- **Voting Reform** including early voting and automatic voter registration
- **Criminal Justice Reform** including “Raise the Age”
- **Campaign Finance Reform and Ethics Reform** to clean up Albany corruption
- **New York Health Act** to provide Single Payer Healthcare in New York State

## **DON'T LET NEW YORK'S SCHOOLS STAY UNDERFUNDED**

In 2006, the NYS Court of Appeals found that **by underfunding our schools, New York State is violating students' constitutional right to a "sound and basic education."** Schools were ordered to receive a \$5.5 billion increase in basic operating aid, known as Foundation Aid, statewide over the course of four years. It's 2017, and our schools are still waiting to see that money.

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:** The Democrats are asking for a **\$2.1 billion dollar increase to make sure that our schools have the necessary funding to educate our kids.** The Republicans, with the support of the IDC and Simcha Felder, propose a \$960 million increase, and Governor Cuomo only wants to raise it by \$428 million! The IDC and Republicans also want to alter the formula for calculating Foundation Aid in a way that will further shortchange poorer and needier areas both upstate and downstate.

The Alliance for Quality Education, an advocacy group for the improvement of NY's public education system, says **"The IDC supports Trump's education policies, which include the continued underfunding of public education and the siphoning of money into charter school and vouchers."**

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## **NEW YORK: AMONG THE WORST STATES IN AMERICA FOR VOTING RIGHTS**

**New York's voting laws are among the worst in the nation:** we rank 41st in voter turnout. There are nearly 2 million citizens of voting age not registered to vote. Unlike most states, we don't have early voting in any form, and it's difficult to even register. In fact, **our voting laws are so repressive that Republicans use them to promote voter suppression.** When asked about cutting his state's early voting period, Governor John Kasich of Ohio said "I do not know why you are picking on Ohio. Why don't you go pick on New York?"

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:** Governor Cuomo and the Democrats in the NY State Legislature have **proposed automatic voter registration and early voting** in their budgets. The Republicans, with the support of the IDC and Simcha Felder, reject these proposals to strengthen our democracy. They don't care if you can't vote, because low turnout is the only way Republicans can win elections.

**The IDC and Simcha Felder are letting the Party of Trump keep New Yorkers from voting!**

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