

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."**

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:

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