

## THE IDC HELPS REPUBLICANS CHEAT OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS – ACT NOW TO STOP THEM!

In 2006, a New York State court found that underfunding of public schools violated students' right to a "sound and basic education" and ordered the state to increase basic operating funds by \$5.5 billion over four years. It's 2018, and our schools have not seen that money. The Alliance for Quality Education, a NY advocacy group, says, "The IDC supports Trump's education policies, which means underfunding public education and siphoning money into charter schools and vouchers."

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:** For 2018-19, Democrats propose a \$1.5 billion increase in school aid, with the remaining funding paid by 2021. Republicans, with the support of the IDC and Simcha Felder, propose a \$957 million increase. Governor Cuomo proposes \$769 million, with no provision for the balance. Last year's budget gutted the funding formula to shortchange needier regions, and granted privately run charter schools *double* the amount per child that public schools received. Now Cuomo, the Republicans and the IDC are proposing millions of dollars more in subsidies to charter schools while filling their accounts with charter school campaign donations. Charter school interests (including De Vos family holdings) contributed nearly \$700,000 to IDC members in 2017 alone.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** The budget will be decided by March 30<sup>th</sup>, so we have to act NOW. Call Governor Cuomo on Wednesday, March 28th to demand that he fully fund public education in New York State: 518-474-1041, press 2. And on September 13th, vote the IDC out in the NY State Senate Democratic Primary!

### 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 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 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
- Campaign Finance Reform and Ethics Reform to clean up Albany corruption
- New York Health Act to provide Single Payer Healthcare in New York State