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## **PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATIONAL JUSTICE IS A THREAT TO PUBLIC EDUCATION**

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On Wednesday, September 16th the **New York Business Council** will host its annual meeting at the Sagamore Resort in New York State. Headlining the event is **Campbell Brown**, founder of the **Partnership for Educational Justice**, a pro-charter school organization that recently backed a law suit in New York State to roll back teacher tenure and due-process for public school teachers.

"Campbell Brown and her organization the Partnership for Education Educational Justice are a threat to Public Education and must not be encouraged to wage its negative campaign against our New York schools, teachers and students," stated **BALCONY Director Lou Gordon**, who urged a boycott of her ill-timed event in New York this week.

**BALCONY** has long supported New York's public school system and its teachers. **Cynthia DiBartolo, BALCONY Executive Board Member, Chairperson of the Greater New York Chamber of Commerce, and founder and CEO of Tigress Financial Partners** wrote in an article published in June, "Public education is a right. It is a guarantee that represents our government's commitment to the ideal that all children deserve an education. It ratifies that our nation's future prosperity, our children's future, depends on the quality and integrity of this critical institution. Unfortunately, in New York State, and across the nation, public education has come under attack."

Organizations like the **Alliance for Educational Justice**, which receives the majority of its funding from hedge fund millionaires and billionaires, disagree and insist on greater standardized testing, fewer rights for public school teachers, and indeed, ultimately the wholesale replacement of public schools by charter schools and for-profit charter management organizations - in which they are heavily invested.

Public schools are and will continue to be the primary means by which we educate the vast majority of our children. A common-sense approach to improving education in New York - one that respects the rights of teachers and the needs of all of our children - is what our teachers and students need and deserve. This is impossible if we continue to pass the buck by blaming teachers and unions and privatizing our education system.

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