

PAC Endorsements

Due to redistricting, there is a second Primary election that will be held on **Tuesday, August 23rd**. There are only a few primary races that are on the ballot now since many were on the ballot in June. As you know, BTF only interviews candidates that have requested our endorsement in writing.

The Political Action Committee (PAC) virtually interviewed **United States Congressman Brian Higgins** and **Senator Sean Ryan** upon receiving their written request for our endorsement. Both have received the Buffalo Teachers Federation endorsement.

CONGRESSMAN BRIAN HIGGINS – NY District 26

Brian Higgins was elected to the United States Congress serving a term beginning in January 2005. As a product of Buffalo Public Schools, **Congressman Higgins** attended BPS #27 and #93 and South Park High School. He stated that as a BPS student he received a secondary education by interacting with people of diverse ethnicities and cultures. His respect for teachers and the teaching profession was made abundantly clear during the interview. He has diligently worked to secure additional funding for BPS as he sees that there is no better investment than investing in public schools. If re-elected, **Congressman Higgins** stated that he will use his position to help improve BPS by providing more resources from the federal and state governments. He stated, "There should be resources targeted to helping kids become healthier, happier and better learners and this will help them to become independent."

Congressman Higgins advocates for common sense approaches to stop the murdering of our children in our schools and community. He advocates for comprehensive background checks, raising the age of purchasing weapons and a comprehensive ban on assault weapons. He supports earmarking federal funding for additional, guidance counselors, social workers, attendance teachers and resource officers. He is currently supporting a bill in the Congress that would appropriate approximately \$250 million for community violence prevention that would carry over into the schools. He said that arming teachers was "insane", and that they have enough to do in the classroom.

When asked about the recent Supreme Court decision regarding Roe -vs- Wade, **Congressman Higgins** was adamant that he believed the decision was wrong and was very vocal about the current U.S. Supreme Court. He believes that public opinion of the Supreme Court has never been lower.

Congressman Higgins stated that Charter Schools are funded by New York State, as states issue the charters and is not necessarily a federal issue. However, if Buffalo Public Schools were adequately funded and supported, the appeal of charter schools would be greatly diminished.

SENATOR SEAN RYAN – New York Senate District 61

Senator Sean Ryan is the son of a Buffalo firefighter and a public school teacher. His strong union background is reflected in his commitment to Labor and the working middle class. His position on the necessity to fund public schools was articulated during our PAC interview. Stating that a majority of Buffalo Public School students live in poverty, there needs to be adequate funding for programming,

security and additional resources. As a member of the Senate Education Committee, **Senator Ryan** has been a supporter of implementing the Foundation Aid formula to increase funding that will impact the financial resources available to BPS. **Senator Ryan** supports providing our students with wrap-around services such as guidance counselors, attendance teachers and social workers.

Supported by many labor unions such as NYSUT, NYS AFL-CIO, CSEA and 1199 SEIU, **Senator Ryan** is a firm supporter of the Triborough provisions of the Taylor Law which mandates continuation of teacher contracts that have expired until a new one is negotiated. He is also willing to submit legislation establishing a separate funding stream for Charter Schools and stated that Charter School teachers should have at least the same credentials as Buffalo Public School Teachers. **Senator Ryan** would eliminate the Receivership Bill and is opposed to Teacher Evaluation (APPR) as it relates to student test scores.

Primary Day is Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Please remember to vote! Every vote counts!!!

Sincerely,



Philip Rumore,
BTF President



Rebecca Pordum, Chairperson
Political Action Committee