

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 27, 2009

**B.T.F. TO NEW YORK STATE –
STOP THE ASSAULT ON POOR AND MIDDLE CLASS**

Phil Rumore, President of the 3700-member B.T.F., today blasted reports of the underfunding of schools in New York State. “New York State is betraying the successful efforts by Senator Schumer, Congressman Charles Rangel and others to adequately fund the education of our students through a massive amount of Federal aid.

New York State is reducing its share of funding for our students by using the massive increase of Federal education funding that Senator Schumer, Congressman Higgins and others fought to secure.

For the first time ever, the New York State Legislature last year had, as a result of court action, begun to address the insufficient educational funding for poor and middle class students.

They are now renegeing on their promises to provide poor and middle class students with an equitable education and are balancing the budget on the backs of our poor students. They are dashing their hopes and dreams for equity in education. This cannot stand.

We call upon the Governor and Legislature to provide the funding promised to our students, already in State law, and to not renege on your promise of a sound basic education for all of our students.”