

NYSDC Resolution Calling For Removal of  
State Senator Simcha Felder from the Democratic Party

May 2018

Whereas following the elections in 2012 and 2016 Democrats had the majority of seats in the New York Senate, and

Whereas in both instances the Democrats were prevented from being in the Senate leadership, and therefore from setting the agenda, and

Whereas as a result many critical Democratic issues not only failed to receive a vote, they also failed to receive a public debate upon the merits of the legislation, much less pass into law, including: public financing, early voting, bolstering abortion rights, the Dream Act, the Child Victims Act, comprehensive ethics reform, and many others, and,

Whereas the Democrats known as the IDC (Independent Democratic Conference) have joined, or in some cases rejoined, the Democratic Conference, and

Whereas New York just held two special elections for State Senate in which Democrats won both seats, signaling that the people of New York do indeed want Democratic leadership in the Senate, and,

Whereas Governor Cuomo has called for unity, and the NYSDC has gone so far as to issue the following statement:

“Governor Cuomo has been clear: Once we have 32 Democratic Senate members, any Democratic Senator who does not forge unity or fosters division is disloyal to the Party and we shall and will unite to defeat them. We cannot and we will not tolerate any continued division or individual power struggles within the Senate Democratic Conference — that will only serve to divert attention away from winning Republican held seats and truly turning the State Senate blue. Unification must be realized, and the intramural politics must end once and for all.” And,

Whereas Senator Simcha Felder has announced his intentions to continue to caucus with the Republicans, giving them the numerical majority needed to retain power and control of the NYS Senate, its agenda, and its bills, despite running as a Democrat on the Democratic line, and

Whereas Senator Felder is ignoring our Governor, who in an open letter to Senator Felder, urged him to “seize and maximize” the opportunity he has to reunite with the Democrats and help give the party command of the Senate. And,

Whereas Senator Felder is ignoring the will of the Democratic Party of New York, and

Whereas Senator Felder is ignoring the will of the voters of New York, and

Whereas Senator Felder has repeatedly proven that he is not a true Democrat, but a political opportunist with no loyalty to the Party, its platform or fellow Democrats, and

Whereas NYS Election Law § 16–110 paragraph 2 states:

“The chairman of the county committee of a party with which a voter is enrolled in such county, may, upon a written complaint by an enrolled member of such party in such county and after a hearing held by him or by a sub-committee appointed by him upon at least two days’ notice to the voter, personally or by mail, determine that the voter is not in sympathy with the principles of such party. The Supreme Court or a justice thereof within the judicial district, in a proceeding instituted by a duly enrolled voter of the party at least ten days before a primary election, shall direct the enrollment of such voter to be cancelled if it appears from the proceedings before such chairman or sub-committee, and other proofs, if any, presented, that such determination is just.” (L.1976, c. 233, § 1. Amended L.1978, c. 373, § 102.) And,

Whereas the full force of the Election Law should be exercised to satisfy the will of the Democratic Party and its voters,

Therefore, we respectfully call upon the members of the Kings County Democratic Committee to issue a written complaint to the Chair of said committee, and further,

We respectfully call upon the Chair of the Kings County Democratic Committee to follow all procedures ascribed by law to remove Senator Simcha Felder from the rolls of NYS Democratic voters as a registered Democrat.