In a statement announcing the endorsements, union leaders said the candidates “are the best choices to fight for the restoration of schools and schools safe, promote careers that the Stanfield-Peters arrangement he made to protect teachers, only some- thing the candidates said. LaPlaca’s and Natale’s campaign, “Teachers across the 8th legislative district should be asking themselves why a retirement cutting anti-public education legis- lator is someone worth voting for, and what are the terms of the arrangement he made to betray hard-working teach- ers and support staff.”

School funding changes and proposed pension reforms are expected to be the two biggest taking points for the candi- dates this fall.

Republicans have tradi- tionally represented the 8th district, which is made up of a large swath of east- ern and central Burlington County, as well as the towns of Woodford, Berlin Borough and Pine Hill in Camden County and Hammonton in Atlantic County. But Democrats have become a much greater political force in Burlington and have targeted the district’s Assembly seats as prime pickups to pad the party’s large majority.

Peters, a former Burlington County freeholder who was elected to the Assembly in 2017, has become the early target, with the Democrats focusing on votes they believe are out of touch with district voters beliefs. LaPlaca’s and Natale’s statement last week cited the Assembly’s 2018 vote to restore close to $7.5 million in state funding for family planning and women’s health clinics such as Planned Parenthood that former Gov. Chris Christie had cut. The supplemental spending bill was approved in February at a 47–20 vote that was divided among party lines. It would have been the first bill Gov. Phil Murphy signed into law.

In June this year, Peters was voted against legislation that would require insurance companies to provide benefits mandated by the Affordable Care Act such as maternity and new- born care and the costs of all contraceptives if the federal law is struck down or changed. “From supporting efforts to gut funding for women’s health care and family plan- ning services to voting against requiring insurance compa- nies to cover birth control, Ryan Peters has shown his true extremist colors in Trenton,” the two Democrats said in a statement.

The Republicans’ cam- paign fired back with their own attacks.

“While Gina LaPlaca was busy working as a sleepy lob- byist in Trenton helping her corporate clients avoid paying taxes and politically and con- nected lawyer Mark Natale was defending (night club) owners accused of taking advantage of young women, Ryan Peters left his wife and young children at home and put his life on the line to free women and children from oppressors in Iran. Ryan wasn’t be lectured to by two political hacks like LaPlaca and Natale about women’s rights,” the Nassau campaign said.

LaPlaca, of Lumberton, started her career in the Statehouse in the Office of Legislative Services and worked as an aide to former Assembly Speaker Joe Anheuser. But she also has worked as a government lobbyist for Vernon and Asbury Park.

Republican Alessandro Ingoglia, of Evesham, gradu- ated from the Rutgers School of Law in 2013 and clerked in the U.S. District court before starting his practice as an attorney specializing in employment law. “Anheuser’s and those they believe will be good advocates for both teachers and students. “NJEA members have seen the profound impact that political decisions have on their lives and on the lives of their students,” NJEA President Marie Blistan said. “NJEAs members have always been active participants in the political process, because we care about our profession and our students.”

Peters and Stanfield said the key endor- sement from the Stanfield-Peters for Assembly team is best equipped to improve public education, keep our children and schools safe, promote bipartisanship solutions to the problems plaguing our state, and make New Jersey more affordable for the working families and seniors.”

It also showed they are the best choice to fight for the endorsement of millions of state aid that dis- trict schools are depending on to lose over the next several years due to the school funding formu- lation change.

This campaign focused on Peters’ voting record in a response to the Republican’s first-term legislator voted against the state budgets in 2016 and 2017 to include the largest state payments into the state’s supplemental spending bill.

“Ryan Peters is the same Trenton insider Ryan Peters, who has been a sidekick of the Trenton insider’s polit- ical endorsement from the union. After voting twice against funding the pension for teachers, only some- thing cutting shady side deals would be endorsed by that union for re-election,” said Mickey Quin, a spokesman for LaPlaca’s and Natale’s campaign. “Teachers across the 8th legislative district should be asking themselves why a retirement cutting anti-public education legis- lator is someone worth voting for, and what are the terms of the arrangement he made to betray hard-working teach- ers and support staff.”

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on social media posts adver- tising that business without their permission. Natale is listed as an attorney repre- senting one of the defendants, a nightclub in Atlantic City.

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