



ACTION ALERT

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A non-profit tax-exempt organization representing New York City's community-based mental health sector.

August 20, 1999

Half-Fare Almost Here

The long-running saga of the MTA ½ Fare fairness bill is drawing (hopefully) to a close. After a unanimous vote in the Senate and a near-unanimous vote in the Assembly, it has finally reached the desk of Governor George Pataki. With a single signature it will become law.

The time for a final push is now!!!

Action Requested

Write/Fax/Call/Email Governor Pataki to let him know how important this piece of legislation is to people in New York City with mental illness. Encourage him to sign A1807/S.2505 into law. Please also fax copies of your letters to Governor Pataki's Counsel, James Maguire at (518) 681-4620.

Hon. George E. Pataki
Governor
State of New York
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224
(518) 474-1041
Fax: (518) 486-4466
gov.pataki@chamber.state.ny.us

August 16, 1999

Hon. George E. Pataki
Governor
State of New York
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Pataki:

I am writing to you today to encourage you to sign the MTA Half Fare Fairness Bill (S.2505/A.1807).

You have it in your power to end a decade-long pattern of discrimination, and make the MTA's Half Fare Disability Program available to SSI recipients with serious and persistent mental illness.

Passed by overwhelming majorities in both the Assembly (128-3) and Senate (59-0), it is supported by a Coalition of more than 220,000 mental health consumers, family members and providers.

SSI recipients with serious and persistent mental illness are barred from the Half Fare. SSI recipients with physical disabilities or developmental disabilities get the Half Fare. In other parts of the State, this discrimination was long-ago recognized and corrected; unfortunately, not in the 12 Counties served by the MTA.

The MTA Half Fare Fairness Bill will enable SSI recipients with serious and persistent mental illness to travel to, and attend more regularly, their mental health community based rehabilitation programs - to move forward with their rehabilitation - to travel to part time jobs - to travel to school - to better manage the side effects and physical illnesses associated with their mental illnesses.

This bill represents the merger of good transportation and good public health policy. Please sign the MTA Half Fare Fairness Bill.

Respectfully,