



ACTION ALERT

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

January 11, 2000

Demand MTA 1/2 Fare Fairness Now!

After passing both houses of the legislature by huge margins the MTA 1/2 Fare Fairness Bill was signed into law by Governor George Pataki on August 31, 1999. It became law thirty days after that.

Unfortunately, over three months after the MTA was legally required to provide a half-fare Metrocard for SSI recipients with psychiatric disabilities, the Transit Authority continues to refuse to implement the law. The MTA claims that there is a "technical deficiency" in the law that makes it unnecessary for them to carry out the provisions of the law in New York City.

The legislators who sponsored the bill, Senator Frank Padavan and Assemblyman James Brennan, and most other legal experts believe the law is valid as written.

The MTA never mentioned this "technical deficiency" during the debate over the bill, but now MTA Chairman E. Virgil Conway is using it as an excuse to deny people with mental illness a right for which we and they fought very hard. Conway was appointed to the MTA Board by Governor Pataki in 1992 and was appointed Chairman, also by Governor Pataki, in 1995. His term expires in 2005.

Action Requested

Call/Fax/Write/Email Governor George Pataki and tell him how disappointed you are that the law he signed is being disregarded by one of his appointees. Thank him for signing this extremely important bill and ask him to instruct his MTA Chairman to implement the law he signed.

Hon. George E. Pataki
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