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Assembly Member Kellner Works with Governor's Office to Secure Mediation for Access-A-Ride Labor Dispute

Statement by Assembly Member Micah Z. Kellner

“This morning, I spoke to Governor Eliot Spitzer about my deep concerns that the Access-A-Ride strike is having on New Yorkers with disabilities. I am incredibly pleased to announce, that after my conversation with Governor Eliot Spitzer he immediately had the New York State Commissioner of Labor reach out to both the union and the companies. I understand that both parties have agreed to sit down at the bargaining table with a mediator to settle their differences.

“It is incredibly important to me that the rights of workers in New York State are respected, particularly workers who provide a vital service to New Yorkers with disabilities. But we also cannot afford to allow Access-A-Ride to be involved in a lengthy dispute. Without Access-A-Ride operating, too many New Yorkers have been stranded in their homes, unable to get to work, make doctor's appointments, or simply go about their daily lives without endangering their lives. What all involved should never lose sight of is that for many New Yorkers with disabilities, this strike is even more severe and devastating than a full transit strike is to non-disabled New Yorkers because it can actually endanger their lives.

“I want to thank Governor Spitzer for his prompt action; it will go a long way in ensuring that Access-A-Ride is back on the road.

I urge both the union and the companies to take advantage of this opportunity to work with a State-appointed mediator towards both a swift and just ending to this unfortunate episode. A lengthy labor dispute benefits no one.”

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