



MICAH Z. KELLNER
65th Assembly District

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**MTA Drops Illegal Access-A-Ride Fare Hike,
Saves Taxpayers the Expense of a Lawsuit**
Statement by Assembly Member Micah Z. Kellner

“I am pleased that today the MTA has announced that it is shelving its disastrous, discriminatory, and illegal proposal to raise the Access-A-Ride fare from \$2 to as high as \$5 – twice the \$2.50 proposal for regular mass transit users.

“Whatever the MTA is saying publicly, a \$10 round-trip fare for people with disabilities didn’t pass the smell test, and the outcry from the disabilities community, elected officials, and the response from the media had a major role in ensuring that people with disabilities were at least treated the same as everyone else.

“Had an inequitable fare increase gone through, the MTA would have been sued and they would have lost that court battle – but not before the taxpayers footed the bill for their hubris. The City of New York and the MTA signed an agreement in 1993 in which the MTA promised never to raise the fare for Access-A-Ride higher than the regular fare. It is bewildering that given this fact the MTA ever had the nerve to suggest this proposal in the first place.

“Because the MTA was unwilling to keep its promises, Senator Tom Duane and I introduced a bill that bars any transit authority in New York State from raising the paratransit fare higher than the regular fare. It should be a matter of law that in New York no one is ever charged more for a public service based on who they are – be that on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or any other factor. To ensure that this fiasco is never repeated here in New York City or anywhere else in the state, I will continue to fight to ensure that this legislation is enacted.”

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