

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATOR BURKE**

ECLEG FEB13'18 AM 9:40

RE: Supporting Bills S6027A and A9611 Amending New York State Transportation Law to Increase Accessible Busing Service Area for Disabled Passengers

WHEREAS, as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2010, nearly 1 in 5 Americans live with a disability, equaling about 57 million people and approximately 19 percent of the country's population; and

WHEREAS, providing accommodations for those who are disabled is a promise upheld by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and one in accordance with upholding the worth and dignity of each citizen by providing them the means to live a fully integrated and productive life; and

WHEREAS, the ADA's intent was to protect those who are disabled from being discriminated for purposes of employment, in the delivery of goods and services, and to require employers to create accessibility requirements and accommodations to employees and patrons who are disabled; and

WHEREAS, the landmark civil rights law was first introduced by Democratic Senator Tom Harkin, and passed both Houses of Congress with bipartisan support before being signed into law by Republican President George H. W. Bush in 1990; and

WHEREAS, most recently, a twofold bill has been introduced in the New York State Assembly and Senate that would increase the service area for accessible busing to one and a half miles from any bus line of the transportation authority and require that no less than sixty-five percent of buses in the regularly operated fleet are accessible; and

WHEREAS, to meet the sixty-five percent requirement, all buses leased, purchased, or brought into service would be required to provide access to transportation disabled citizens until this threshold is met. The sole exception to this requirement would be buses put into service to relieve temporary, unplanned shortages of buses in service; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that our country's disabled citizens are empowered members of our community, and with the unified voice of the Erie County Legislature, the people of Erie County can make its support for this important issue known to State lawmakers and bring forth the momentum and movement needed to bring it to the Floor for passage; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the necessity of achieving this goal, this Honorable Body hereby goes on record to voice its support for both bills in the State Legislature, and urge the continuation of the tradition of bipartisanship in issues regarding the rights of disabled persons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body does hereby support amending New York State Transportation Law to increase the service area for paratransit transportation, and for buses to expand their accommodations for those who are disabled; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Andrew Cuomo, the Western New York Delegation of the State Legislature, Executive Director of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority Kimberley Minkel, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

FISCAL IMPACT: None for resolution