

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

Re: Support for Buffalo Public School Students and their NFTA Transportation Needs

WHEREAS, approximately 10,000 children who attend Buffalo Public Schools (BPS) daily use Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) buses or subway services to attend schools, after-school activities, sporting events, internships and other community events and activities; and

WHEREAS, the BPS pays the NFTA \$75 per month per student for NFTA passes to enable student transportation needs, at a total cost to the school district of approximately \$8 million per year; and

WHEREAS, the agreement between the BPS and NFTA is stale, and dated and does not adequately address the needs and challenges of BPS students and the community in this modern day and age; and

WHEREAS, the BPS and NFTA are engaged in dialogue concerning a new contract; and

WHEREAS, many students are tardy or miss school or other activities due to problems and issues with NFTA bus or subway service, including delayed, late or missing buses from routes and/or a lack of regular scheduled service with frequent buses; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Parent Teacher Organization (BPTO) is seeking one NFTA unrestricted pass that will give students accessibility and unrestricted use of the NFTA system to use any route at any time instead of student passes that are restricted to certain routes that only get them to and from school, but not to other locations or activities; and

WHEREAS, the BPS recently issued a statement saying "Students need a one-pass system that covers their transportation needs. It's a customer service issue" with BPS Superintendent Kriner Cash saying "Equal service for equal pay, that's what I want"; and

WHEREAS, the BPTO is asking the NFTA to also provide restorative justice training to NFTA Police to assist in developing better community relations with young people using NFTA services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature expresses its support for the BPS and the BPTO in their negotiations with the NFTA and urges all parties to work together to help attain the best outcome for students that allows them to access school and other activities outside of their school buildings that will help students grow and succeed; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body urges the NFTA to allow BPS students to use the monthly NFTA pass in an unrestricted manner, similar to “regular” NFTA passes that allow adults unrestricted use of the NFTA bus and rail system; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Legislature encourages the BPS and NFTA to quickly reach agreement on a new contract that looks out for the interests of students first and foremost; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the NFTA Board of Commissioners, NFTA Executive Director Kimberley Minkel, Buffalo Board of Education President Dr. Barbara Seals Nevergold, BPS Superintendent Dr. Kriner Cash, and BPTO Co-Chair Larry Scott.