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October 10, 2018

Dr. Ken Wagner  
Commissioner of  
Rhode Island Department of Education  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
By mail, by email to [Ken.Wagner@ride.ri.gov](mailto:Ken.Wagner@ride.ri.gov),  
And by fax to 401-222-6178

Re: Out of District Students Affected By the Bus Strike

Dear Commissioner Wagner:

We write on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union, the Rhode Island Disability Law Center, and certain individual parents and students. The bus strike at the Providence bus depot has not only affected Providence students, but it has also affected students with disabilities in other districts who receive out-of-district transportation through the statewide bus transportation system set out in R.I. Gen. Law § 16-21.1

For example, student CD has severe autism and needs to travel from Cranston to Warwick to attend the Pathways school. Since the bus strike, he has not been provided with any bus service. Neither Cranston Public Schools nor the Rhode Island Department of Education have provided any assistance to his mother, a single parent, for her to take him to school. She has had to miss work for at least an hour a day in the morning to take him to school. So far she



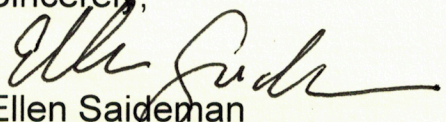
has been able to use scarce vacation/sick days in the morning and have his PASS worker pick him up three days a week, but there are two days when she has no help. Fortunately, one was a holiday this week. She is concerned that she will run out of vacation/sick days and that her employment is jeopardized by her inability to work a full day.

Because RIDE is responsible for the statewide transportation system, it is incumbent on RIDE to locate alternative transportation providers for these students.

We are requesting that RIDE develop a plan for providing alternative transportation for these students by noon on Friday, October 12, 2018.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

  
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Cooperating attorney for the ACLU of Rhode Island

  
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