



FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE
LOYAL KNIGHTS OF NEW YORK

LODGE # 222

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April 9, 2013

Dear Senator Schumer,

Our Lodge consists largely of employees of the Federal Bureau of Prisons in New York. Many of our constituents utilize the federal transit benefit program offered by the Bureau of Prisons. I know you have been of great help in the past in securing transit benefits for federal employees in New York and we would again like to call on you for assistance. I believe you were behind the inclusion of a provision in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act which raised the allowed transit subsidy to rise from \$120 to \$240. Although that provision expired it was recently brought back and our benefit was again raised, this time to \$245. There was a provision in the law that made this \$245 benefit retroactive to January 2012. Unfortunately we have just been informed by the Bureau of Prisons that we can only claim retroactive pay back to January of 2013, not 2012. They are also requesting documentation be submitted with our application to retrieve retroactive pay.

We are asking your help to allow us to recoup retroactive pay back to January of 2012, not just January of 2013. Unlike other federal law enforcement agencies we are not issued government vehicles and most of our staff commutes via public transportation. Many of our staff commutes using the LIRR or METRO NORTH in addition to the NYC subway incurring a great transit expense. If we were allowed to recoup what we believe the law says we are entitled to it would be over \$1,000 to many of our members. In this time of no raises and possible furloughs that money is desperately needed by our members. If your office could intervene with the Bureau of Prisons and assure we be allowed to receive retroactive pay back to the authorized January of 2012 we would be most thankful. If you could further explain to the Bureau of Prisons that to expect someone to have kept their monthly LIRR or other train ticket from a year ago is unrealistic and should not be a requirement to be reimbursed. They know from our original application to receive the transit subsidy what mode of transportation we take and the cost and we feel that should suffice as documentation.

Knowing your strong and lengthy history of fighting for better transit subsidies for federal workers we are hopeful you will assist us in this matter. This coupled with your knowledge of the financial plight of the federal worker right now gives us hope you will take efforts to help us. I am enclosing some documentation to assist you. Lastly, if your staff would like to contact me please feel free to call at (646) 836-6471 or e-mail at khaas@bop.gov.

Sincerely,

Kenneth B. Haas,
Legislative Coordinator Lodge 222

C: FOP Grand Lodge Legislative Office

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