



DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW YORK

New York's Protection & Advocacy System and Client Assistance Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DRNY Files Amicus Brief to Preserve Reasonable Accommodations in NYC Housing

Albany, NY – February 21, 2018 – A critical protection for New York City (NYC) tenants with disabilities is at risk. Because affordable accessible housing is very rare in NYC, tenants with disabilities must request that their landlords modify their apartments to accommodate their needs. The NYC Human Rights Law explicitly requires that landlords prove an undue hardship to deny the accommodation. Despite this clear language, a New York appeals court ignored the statute and required the tenant to show that the request was not overly burdensome.

The decision is being appealed to New York State's highest court. Disability Rights New York (DRNY) has been granted permission to file an Amicus Brief in this case. If this decision is not reversed, many NYC tenants with disabilities will go without needed accommodations and be forced out of their homes.

“Placing a greater burden on people with disabilities to have the accommodation they need to remain in their home is unacceptable,” said DRNY Executive Director Timothy A. Clune. “The law is clear and the Courts need to make sure it is followed.”

Read DRNY's Brief here: <http://bit.ly/2CccIXQ>

DRNY is the designated independent non-profit Protection & Advocacy System empowered by Congress to investigate allegations of abuse and neglect and provide legal and non-legal advocacy services to people with disabilities in New York State. The Protection & Advocacy System was created by Congress as a direct result of the horrific conditions that were uncovered in the 1970s at New York's Willowbrook State School.

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