

July 27, 2016

Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge
Chair, Democratic National Convention
2344 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Secretary, Democratic National Committee
250 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Congresswoman Fudge and Mayor Rawlings-Blake,

I am writing to express my deep disappointment regarding the Democratic National Committee's lucrative partnership with Uber – a company that discriminates against wheelchair users. The DNC should immediately apologize for engaging in this tone deaf and offensive business deal.

Without any public input, the DNC accepted a deal that handed Uber a free, private lot for its vehicles outside the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia and gave the company inside access to transport party VIPs at the convention. The RNC declined the same proposal from Uber, leaving the company to rent space at the Republican convention in Cleveland earlier this month.

I am a Democrat and a wheelchair user. I feel the impact of Uber's discrimination every day. In my home city of New York, Uber has more than 30,000 cars on the road but none are wheelchair accessible. Uber disregards our civil rights and devalues our lives by refusing to provide accessible vehicles in New York and other cities across the nation.

Uber's shameful business practices do not align with the Democratic Party Platform, which opposes discrimination against people of color, the LGBT community and people with disabilities. At this year's convention, the DNC notably featured a powerful speech from Anastasia Somoza, a fellow New York wheelchair user who is an incredible advocate for our community.

That is why I am shocked that the Democrats – my party – would cut a deal with a \$60 billion company that increases its profits by violating my civil rights. I expect better from Democrats. I can only hope that your candidates, Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine, will respond by taking swift action to disavow the deal and condemn Uber's discrimination.

Sincerely,

Dustin Jones
United for Equal Access New York