



January 28, 2005

Mr. Andy Santoro
Group Vice-President
Millenium Radio New Jersey and
General Manager, New Jersey 101.5 FM
P.O. Box 5698
Trenton, New Jersey 08638

Dear Mr. Santoro:

On behalf of NAMI's 220,000 members nationwide, representing individuals with mental illnesses and their families, I strongly protest remarks made by Craig Carton, your talk show host on New Jersey 101.5 (WKXW-FM).

Equally objectionable is Millenium's apparent decision to stand by those remarks by stating simply on 101.5's Web site that talk show hosts are, "by nature, controversial." Mr. Carton's remarks represent hate speech. Millenium's position poses serious legal and public policy implications—which in turn suggest abdication of Millenium's public responsibilities under federal license.

We ask Millenium to take disciplinary action relative to Mr. Carton, as well as specific steps to remedy the public injury caused by broadcast of stigma imposed on people living with mental illnesses. Stigma is rooted in ignorance, prejudice and discrimination, and contributes to an ongoing public health crisis, recognized by both federal and state authorities, leading to thousands of deaths each year.

We raise the following points:

- According to the Associated Press (AP) on January 26, 2005, the station refused to make public a full and accurate transcript of the "Jersey Guys Show" for January 24. If so, such corporate policy conflicts with and undermines a broader public interest. We are forced to rely instead on a partial transcript provided to AP by an unidentified source, in which Mr. Carton is quoted as saying relative to women with postpartum depression: "What Gov. Codey ought to do is approve the use of medical marijuana so women can have a joint and relax instead of putting their babies in a microwave... Women who claim they suffer from this postpartum depression...they must be crazy in the first place."
- The U.S. Surgeon General has identified stigma of this nature as one of the principal barriers to people seeking help when they need it—for mental illnesses such as postpartum depression. President Bush's New Freedom Commission on Mental

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Health also has identified stigma as a concern, calling for a national campaign to reduce the stigma of seeking care and a national strategy for suicide prevention. That campaign already has begun. Mr. Carton's remarks are contrary to Millenium's public service obligations and directly damage public education.

- We believe that Millenium's tolerance of Mr. Carton's remarks also creates potential legal liability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and any similar state laws. One in five Americans are affected by mental illness at some point during their lives. Mr. Carton's remarks represent *prima facie* evidence of a "hostile workplace environment" for any person with a mental illness working—or applying to work—at 101.5 FM or elsewhere in Millenium's network. Consider yourself on notice. This incident—and this letter—serve as a record that may help to prove a pattern of discrimination either in the present or future.

The choice is yours. Disown Mr. Carton's hate speech and support the national campaign against stigma, or continue to act irresponsibly in your legal and public service obligations.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Fitzpatrick, M.S.W.
Executive Director

cc: Federal Communications Commission
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
New Jersey Attorney General, Civil Rights Division