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On Martin Luther King Junior's Birthday, members of the Disability Caucus gathered in the Rotunda of Grand Central Terminal, to protest the scapegoating of people labeled with mental illness codified in the recently passed NYS gun control legislation. In silence, they carried signs with upside down black triangles and the words: "Stop Psychiatric Profiling. Today, Advocates from all over the state and Advocacy Unlimited, Inc. We are here today to do the same.

Supporters of another "profiling" idea, (racial profiling) argue that it helps identify criminals, protect innocents, and prevents crimes. By using race police may apprehend the "criminals" before hurting anyone. We all know how that turned out in East Haven, CT. I am here to testify today and share with you the "why" I'm here:

- **To protest the scapegoating of people labeled with mental illness by politicians, media, gun control advocates and the pro-gun lobby: In particular to protest the "NY SAFE Act" pushed through NY's legislature and signed by Gov Cuomo, which expands state and federal criminal databases of people labeled as mentally ill, unconnected to any actual crime or act of violence, and expanded outpatient commitment (forced drugging in the community):**
- **To protest any discriminatory proposals coming out of Vice President Biden's Task Force**
- **To invoke our connection to Martin Luther King Jr. and the values and traditions of nonviolence:**
- **We are a nonviolent community**
- **Many of us have been traumatized by violence and do all we can to stop it**
- **We are being labeled and profiled wrongly as violent, because of the actions of a few individuals**
- **Forced psychiatry is violent**
- **The new laws being enacted – in NY and likely at the federal level and in other states – will further restrict our civil liberties and constitutional rights**
- **We are protesting nonviolently for our civil and human rights**
- **To affirm and celebrate our "creative maladjustment" to a society that pits neighbor against neighbor with a duty to report thought crimes and eccentricities to the state**

Sources: ("Creative Maladjustment" comes from several of King's speeches, including a 1967 speech of King to the American Psychological Association where he called for an International Association to Advance Creative Maladjustment, see <http://www.psychologytoday.com/print/53556>. David Oaks and MindFreedom International have taken up this call as part of the Mad Pride movement, <http://www.mindfreedom.org/kb/mental-health-global/iaacm>.

Thank you for your time.