



# NYAPT

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

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*Our future is riding with us!*

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## **GOVERNOR'S PLANS APPLAUDED BY SCHOOL BUS ASSOCIATION**

The New York Association for Pupil Transportation (NYAPT) today supported several elements of Governor Cuomo's Annual State of the State Message.

Calling the proposed initiatives "good for children and good for New York," NYAPT Executive Director, Peter Mannella, cited the following items that the Association will be working to support:

- ❖ NYAPT supports the Governor's proposal to increase fines levied on motorists who illegally pass stopped school buses. Our own surveys of school bus drivers suggest that the incidence of illegal passing has risen in recent years and increasing fines is one way to attain greater compliance. NYAPT is also supporting related legislation (S518/A321) to install Stop Arm Cameras on school buses to advance and strengthen enforcement efforts. We will work with the Governor and the Legislature on these efforts.
- ❖ NYAPT supports the Governor's proposal to include school buses as an investment focus for the VW settlement funds. School buses carry our children to and from school and, as such, should be equipped with the safest technologies to ensure their health and safety. We look forward to working with DEC and NYSERDA among other agencies to assist in the smooth execution of the VW investment plans and to allow flexibility for districts and operators to employ clean technologies that meet their needs.
- ❖ NYAPT supports and is encouraged by the Governor's call for increased engagement on bullying and harassment of students in schools and on school buses. For our part, NYAPT and our Cyr Foundation have collaborated on a training program for school bus drivers related to the harassment and bullying of LGBTQ students and we are eager to work with the Governor and the Education Department to train drivers and to reduce the incidence of bullying that occurs on school buses.

"We are so pleased that the Governor has called attention to the importance of school bus safety for all our children by advancing these proposals for action in our state. We look forward to being an active part of their development and enactment," stated Lori-Ann Savino (*Jericho School District*), NYAPT President.

"These proposals are all good for children and good for safety. Accordingly, we are eager to support the advancement of each of these initiatives and proposals with the Governor and the Legislature and we will begin the process immediately," Mannella noted.

NYAPT is a professional association dedicated to the support, development and representation of the women and men who are responsible for the safe and efficient transportation of 2.3 million children to and from school each day. Our more than 550 members are singularly focused on the safety of those children and all our efforts are directed to that objective

For further information, visit our website ([www.nyapt.org](http://www.nyapt.org)) or contact our NYAPT offices at 518-463-4937, or contact our Executive Director at [peter@nyapt.org](mailto:peter@nyapt.org)