Congratulations on being appointed to serve on this year's Education Budget Conference Subcommittee!

As you begin work on our state budget, we want to urge your attention to and support for an issue that is very important for our children’s safety:

**First—THANK YOU!:**

We are very pleased that both the Senate and Assembly one-house budget bills did NOT include the ***proposed 2% growth cap*** on expense-based aids, which include Transportation aid.  THANK YOU for that important step!

**Second—A SPECIAL REQUEST:**

We are eager to have New York State join the other states in the nation that have ***allowed STOP ARM CAMERAS to be installed and used on school buses*** to identify and ticket the more than 50,000 motorists who illegally pass our stopped school buses.

    Some 60 legislators ---your colleagues --- in both houses have joined forces to sponsor legislation by Sen. Young and Assemblyman Magnarelli (S518-A321) that also allows for Stop Arm Cameras and we are so grateful for their leadership.  The Governor's proposal recognized the benefits of that legislation and IT'S TIME for New York to do right by our children.

***We would ask*** that the final budget bill (A9506/S7506) include what had been called ***PART C*** in the original budget bills.  That PART, which we are pleased to say is in the Senate one-house bill but not in the Assembly bill, would have allowed stop arm cameras to be used for this purpose and would also have increased fines for illegal passing violations.

    We ask you please to protect our children from the dangers of vehicles passing their school buses as they board or depart those buses, trusting that motorists will be responsible.  Please enact a budget that allows for Stop Arm Cameras on school buses!

Thank you for your consideration of our thoughts and recommendations!

I am available to discuss this information and our requests at your convenience.  You can email me at *xxxxx or* text/call me at *xxxxxxxx*