



NYAPT

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

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Our future is riding with us!

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION SUPPORTS

S. 1064/BONACIC --- A.719/GUNTHER

A bill to increase penalties for illegally passing a stopped school bus

The New York Association for Pupil Transportation **SUPPORTS S.1064-Bonacic/A.719-Gunther** that would provide for a 60-day suspension of a driver's license for any individual who is convicted two or more times of violating Section 1174 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

The dangers of illegal passing of school buses are well-documented and the incidence of illegal passing continues unabated. In recent monthly surveys of school bus drivers, NYAPT determined that an average of more than 42,000 motorists passed stopped school buses on a daily basis. Our annual enforcement and education day, known as OPERATION SAFE STOP DAY, local police issue an average of 1,500 tickets to motorists who pass stopped school buses.

With that kind of data, and with no reduction in the incidence of motorists passing buses, it is important that the state take action to call attention to this problem and to strengthen our laws relating to penalties and enforcement. NYAPT also supports legislation that would allow cameras on school buses to capture images of violating motorists and to issue tickets based on those images. We continue to support that legislation as an enforcement measure but also support this legislation as one means to underscore the severity of this highly dangerous behavior through serious penalties.

NYAPT STRONGLY SUPPORTS S.1064-Bonacic/A.719-Gunther and urges its passage by the New York State Legislature and its enactment into law.

The New York Association for Pupil Transportation is a professional organization comprised of over 600 members, representing school transportation officials in school districts, BOCES, private school bus operators, and public educational institutions across New York State. NYAPT is committed first and always to the safety of the 2.3 million school children we transport to and from school each and every day. We are committed to actively support legislation, regulations and policies that are in the interests of those school children and call upon our State leaders to keep those children in mind during legislative actions.

For additional information, please contact our NYAPT Executive Director, Peter Mannella, at 518-463-4937.