



NYAPT

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

266 Hudson Avenue • Albany, NY 12210 • PH: 518-463-4937 • FX: 518-463-8743 • WWW.NYAPT.ORG

Our future is riding with us!

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION SUPPORTS

S.518B/Young -- A.321B/Magnarelli

A bill to enhance the safety of our children by allowing school buses to be equipped with Stop Arm Cameras to assist in the apprehension of motorists who illegally pass stopped school buses and related provisions

The New York Association for Pupil Transportation **strongly SUPPORTS** the bill **S. 518B-Young/A.321B-Magnarelli** that would strengthen our capacity in New York State to utilize new Stop Arm Camera technology to apprehend the 50,000 motorists who to apprehend who daily put our children at risk by passing stopped school buses illegally.

Illegal passing is a serious traffic safety matter requiring cooperative efforts of our state, schools and law enforcement partners. Since 1993, NYAPT has engaged in educational and enforcement programs like *OPERATION SAFE STOP* to call attention to this significant traffic safety problem. Despite these efforts, the problem continues and is worsening with the increasing emergence of 'right side passes' where motorists pass the school bus on the loading side of the bus. NYAPT is pleased to support legislation that will reduce the incidence of illegal passing through enhanced enforcement.

This legislation will afford us new tools to help in the fight against illegal passing. Specifically, **S.518A/A.321A**:

- Authorizes installation of "School Bus Safety Cameras" or video recording devices on school buses, specifically on or near the Stop Arm, and authorizes such cameras to be eligible for Transportation Aid;
- Most importantly, authorizes the use of images collected by those devices in the issuance of summons to motorists who illegally pass stopped school buses;
- Establishes a flat \$250 fine for convictions based on images captured by a school bus safety camera camera-based, while retaining current fines and penalties for violations witnessed by a police officer;
- Provides for reporting requirements to determine the efficacy of the cameras;
- Authorizes school boards to resolve to install cameras on school buses operated in the district;
- Authorizes school districts and bus contractors to enter into agreements with law enforcement agencies relating to execution of the camera program, and to enter into third-party contracts for installation, processing, and administrative functions of the enforcement process.

Other states have enacted similar legislation and have had success in implementing their programs and affecting the incidence of illegal passing. **IT IS TIME** for New York State to take its place among the states that have taken this important step in protecting our children!

Accordingly, NYAPT STRONGLY SUPPORTS S.518B/Young--A.321B/Magnarelli 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.