



**For Immediate Release**

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**National School Transportation Association Implores Lawmakers for Immediate Action to Preserve Student Transportation Systems in Wake of COVID-19 Crisis**

The National School Transportation Association (NSTA) continued to pursue relief for the student transportation industry by asking lawmakers to immediately require school districts to fund pupil transportation contracts through the conclusion of the COVID-19 health crisis. NSTA Executive Director Curt Macysyn indicated that the organization continues to work with Governors, State departments of Transportation and Education, Congress and the Trump Administration to craft a workable solution that provides relief for hundreds of thousands of school bus drivers, mechanics, dispatchers, and support staff and preserves the capabilities of the private student transportation industry as a whole.

Statistically, private school bus contractors provide approximately 38 percent of school bus services for districts around the country employing 250,000 people. Industry-wide almost 26 million students are transported to-and-from school on a daily basis, utilizing nearly 500,000 school buses. The iconic yellow bus is acknowledged as the safest form of transportation for students to get to school, as well as extra-curricular activities.

“Keeping the student transportation system intact during this crisis has and will have many different net benefits for the county. Student transportation has already been called upon to deliver meals to students who have been displaced from their breakfast and lunch programs. In addition, school bus operators can play a critical role in moving and transporting medical supplies to areas acutely affected by COVID-19,” Macysyn said.

Additionally, student transportation can play a role in assisting National Guard units, as well as first-responders and emergency medical personnel until the crisis subsides. Relying upon transportation professionals, in these cases, can remove a learning curve and enable deployment of people and supplies in a timely manner.

Finally, it is important to note that when schools resume, student transportation needs to be positioned to transport almost 26 million students immediately. If drivers and transportation personnel are laid off, maintaining any level of continuity will be impossible, and many students and parents will not have the option of utilizing the safest way to and from school. Having the presence of a known, trained, and trusted school bus driver at the helm when classes resume will be reassuring for students and parents, and underscores school transportation’s role in the overall educational experience.

“We sincerely hope that legislators and policy-makers take this potential outcome seriously. Only by taking action now, can a crisis be averted,” Macysyn concluded.

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**About NSTA:** National School Transportation Association has been the voice of private school bus contractors, manufacturers and suppliers since 1964. The association provides school transportation professionals with the tools and resources they need to make school buses safe, affordable, and efficient nationwide.