



**For Immediate Release**

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## **NSTA APPLAUDS RE-INTRODUCTION OF STOP FOR SCHOOL BUSES ACT**

The National School Transportation Association (NSTA) applauds Representatives Jackie Walorski (IN-2) and Julia Brownley (CA-26) and Senators Todd Young (IN) and Gary Peters (MI) for re-introducing the “Stop for School Buses Act of 2019 (STOP Act)” (H.R.1994/S.786). Last session, the House STOP Act was included as part of the House of Representatives-passed infrastructure bill in June 2020, and NSTA remains hopeful the STOP Act will be included in surface transportation reauthorization/infrastructure bill this year and be enacted into law.

NSTA is the leading resource for school bus transportation solutions and the voice for private contractors for over 55 years. The Association is a membership organization for school bus contract-operators engaged primarily in transporting students to-and-from school and school-related activities. Members range from small family businesses serving one school district, to large corporations operating tens of thousands of buses across multiple states. Private school bus contractors account for nearly 40 percent of the nation’s pupil transportation services for nearly 26 million children daily and employ more than 250,000 individuals as bus drivers, mechanics, maintenance workers, dispatch, and office workers.

In a letter to Members of Congress last week, NSTA Executive Director Curt Macysyn wrote, “The STOP Act provides a comprehensive Federal program for preventing illegal passing of school buses. It directs the U.S. Department of Transportation to review illegal passing laws, penalties and levels of enforcement in all 50 states, various technologies and driver education materials and make recommendations on best practices and most effective approaches. It also directs DOT to implement a public safety messaging campaign.”

The STOP Act received bi-partisan support in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress collecting 64 co-sponsors for H.R.2218, while the Senate proposal (S.1254) collected 13 co-sponsors.

“Increasingly, school children are placed in harm’s way by external factors outside of the school bus. In particular, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of motorists who are illegally passing stopped school buses with lights flashing and stop arms deployed. This alarming trend has been verified through various industry surveys, and it requires a comprehensive solution that the STOP Act provides. NSTA looks forward to garnering widespread support for this legislation,” said John Benish, NSTA president.

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**About NSTA:** National School Transportation Association (NSTA) 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.