



## For Immediate Release

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### **National School Transportation Association Supports the “Stop for School Buses Act”**

The National School Transportation Association (NSTA) commends Congresswomen Jackie Walorski (R- IN) and Congresswoman Julia Brownley (D-CA) for introducing the “Stop for School Buses Act of 2019 (STOP Act)” (HR 2219) this week. The bill provides a Federal focus on preventing illegal passing of school buses. It directs the 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.

While school bus transportation is the safest form of transportation over all other modes, an average of nine to fifteen students are killed annually while boarding or disembarking their school buses by oncoming traffic. Data indicates that a total of 15 million illegal passings are occurring during every 180- day school year. Congresswoman Walorski is all too aware of these tragedies after three children from one family in her district were struck and killed on one tragic morning by the driver of a pick-up truck on October 30<sup>th</sup> of last year. “The tragic loss of young Hoosiers in bus-related crashes last year, including in Fulton County, was a reminder that life is precious and that we all need to work together to keep children safe,” Congresswoman Walorski said. “Every driver has a responsibility to exercise caution when students are present, and that includes never passing a school bus that is stopped with red lights flashing or its stop arm extended. The Stop for School Buses Act will help our states and local communities take the most effective actions to prevent illegal passing of school buses and ensure students are safe when traveling to and from school.”

“The National School Transportation Association (NSTA) appreciates the work of Congresswoman Walorski and Congresswoman Brownley to introduce the STOP for School Buses Act of 2019. The bill provides a comprehensive federal response to the important issue of preventing illegal passing of school buses so that we can ensure that students are just as safe getting on and off their yellow school buses as they are riding inside their yellow school buses, the safest form of transportation over all others. NSTA stands ready to help build support for the bill as it moves through Congress and will make it the centerpiece of its annual Bus-In next month.” said Blake Krapf, President of the National School Transportation Association.

NSTA has consistently prioritized the issue of illegal passing and is encouraged to see federal legislation tackling the issue. NSTA is confident that increased awareness and a federal focus on this issue will help to decrease instances of illegal passing and prevent future tragedies from occurring.

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*The National School Transportation Association has been the voice of private school bus contractors, manufacturers and suppliers for over 50 years. The Association provides school transportation professionals with the tools and resources they need to make school buses safe, affordable, and efficient nationwide. Additional questions may be directed to:*

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