



**For Immediate Release**

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**NSTA APPLAUDS REINTRODUCTION OF CERTS TAX EXEMPTION ACT**

The National School Transportation Association applauds the reintroduction of the Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services (CERTS) Tax Exemption Act and extends its gratitude to Representatives Darin LaHood (IL-18) and Jimmy Panetta (CA-20) for their continued leadership on this issue.

In addition, the organization lauded Representatives John Rose (TN-6), Mike Kelly (PA-16), Jared Golden (ME-2) and Earl Blumenauer (OR-3) for their support of the proposal.

The initial Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services (CERTS) Act was introduced to support the transportation industry as it suffered severe economic losses over the course of the pandemic. To that end, CERTS Program grants provided desperately needed funding to private school bus contractors that allowed for the continuity of vital student transportation services. However, unlike some previous Covid-19 relief programs (Paycheck Protection Program, Shuttered Venues Operators Grant, Restaurant Revitalization Fund), CERTS funds were not considered tax exempt under the law.

In addition to home-to-school service, school bus operators provided essential services to schools throughout the country during the 2020-21 School Year, and the CERTS Program help support those efforts. While the CERTS Act awarded vital funding to transportation operators, grants only covered about 20 percent of lost revenues.

Recipients of CERTS Grants are comprised of struggling businesses, and requiring them to pay taxes on emergency grant funding will only serve to lengthen their recovery. It is imperative that Congress continues to provide economic assistance to these businesses, through the tax exemption of CERTS Grants.

The CERTS Tax Exemption Act reintroduction comes on the heels of the 2023 NSTA Capitol Hill Bus-In, where NSTA Members took to Capitol Hill to advocate for the tax exemption of CERTS funds. NSTA members met with 80 Members of Congress and staff members from April 26-27, 2023.

“NSTA greatly appreciates the efforts of Representatives LaHood, Panetta, Rose, Kelly, Golden, and Blumenauer on their continued support of private student transportation providers. Their leadership is critical as private operators continue to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic,” said Carina Noble, NSTA President, and Senior Vice President Communications and External Affairs for National Express in Lisle, IL.

“Representatives LaHood and Panetta have been consistent leaders in providing initial impetus for the CERTS Act two years ago, and they continue to support transportation providers in



advocating for this proposal in its reintroduction. Private school bus operators are grateful for their support of this measure, and we look forward to a successful outcome,” added Curt Macysyn, Executive Director of NSTA.

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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.