



For Immediate Release

Contact: Curt Macysyn, Executive Director
(703) 684-3200 ext. 700

September 29, 2025

CMacysyn@yellowbuses.org

NSTA APPLAUDS SENATE INTRODUCTION OF BRAKE FOR KIDS ACT (S.2812)

WASHINGTON D.C. - The National School Transportation Association (NSTA) applauds Senators Todd Young (R-IN) and Gary Peters (D-MI) for introducing the “Brake for Kids Act” (S.2812) in the U.S. Senate on September 16, 2025. This important legislation directs the Secretary of Transportation to execute a nationwide public safety messaging campaign, including television and radio advertisements, to educate drivers about the life-threatening dangers of illegally passing stopped school buses.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), the yellow school bus remains the safest form of transportation for children traveling to and from school. However, children are most at risk when boarding or leaving their school buses, as motorists too often ignore traffic laws by driving past stopped buses with red lights flashing and stop arms extended. Passing a stopped school bus is illegal in all 50 states, yet violations remain alarmingly common.

At the 2025 NSTA Annual Meeting and Convention in Boston, the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) released the results of its 2025 one-day illegal passing survey. This year, more than 114,000 school bus drivers across the country participated, reporting 67,258 violations in a single day. Extrapolated across the typical school year, the findings suggest drivers illegally pass school buses millions of times nationwide, putting children at significant risk for injury or death.

Additionally, a recent National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) survey provided additional context on the issue of illegal school bus passing through its “Driver Knowledge of School Bus Passing Laws: A National Survey”. The survey data revealed that while most drivers are generally aware of stop-arm laws, many remain confused about when and where they must stop for a school bus. Confusion was especially common among drivers on multi-lane roads and in different traffic scenarios.

Both national surveys highlight the urgent need for a coordinated national safety campaign. NSTA believes that a nationwide safety campaign will close knowledge gaps, strengthen driver education, and save lives.

“The Brake for Kids Act is an essential step to protect help protect students and alleviate preventable tragedies,” said Patrick Dean, NSTA President. “Illegal school bus passings are a national crisis, and this legislation provides a platform for student transportation to raise awareness, change behavior, and prevent these all-too-frequent incidents. NSTA applauds Senators Young and Peters for their leadership on this critical safety issue.”

NSTA calls on Congress to swiftly pass the Brake for Kids Act and ensure that protecting children on their way to and from school becomes a top national priority.

“This issue has been a high priority for our membership for a long time, and we are pleased once again to partner with Senators Young and Peters in working on a messaging campaign that will grab the attention of motorists. We want to emphasize that illegal passing of a stopped bus is not only dangerous, but also illegal, and violators can face significant sanctions for their reckless behavior,” Curt Macysyn, NSTA Executive Director stated.

The initiative was a key advocacy piece for the organization at its 2025 Capitol Hill Bus-In held in Washington, DC on March 26-27, 2025.

####

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.