



For Immediate Release

Contact: Curt Macysyn, NSTA Executive Director
info@yellowbuses.org or (703) 684-3200

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NSTA Returns to Nation's Capital for annual Capitol Hill Bus-In event

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National School Transportation Association (NSTA) returned to the Nation's Capital recently, as the organization hosted its 2026 NSTA Capitol Hill Bus-In Program. The event was held in Washington, D.C. from March 11-13, 2026, and over the course of the two-day affair, NSTA Members traversed Capitol Hill engaging with lawmakers to advocate for top NSTA legislative priorities.

The centerpieces of the Bus-In advocacy effort were two measures - the Brake for Kids Act (H.R. 2348/S. 2812), and the Driving Forward Act (H.R. 2360/S. 1284). As NSTA members took to the Hill, both pieces of legislation took center stage in meetings with Members of Congress and their staff, as they highlighted these NSTA top legislative priorities.

In meetings with Congressional Offices, NSTA Members encouraged House of Representatives and Senators to sign on as Co-Sponsors on the Brake for Kids Act. In September 2025, NSTA applauded the introduction of this initiative in the U.S. Senate, which was introduced by Senator Todd Young (IN). The bill directs the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to execute a nationwide public safety messaging campaign, designed to highlight the dangers of illegal passing. The public messaging campaign would include radio and television advertisements, highlighting the dangers of illegal passing.

Another topic of discussion in Congressional Offices included the Driving Forward Act (H.R. 2360/S. 1284). During the 2025 Capitol Hill Bus-In, NSTA outlined the measure's purpose and also leaned on Senate and House members to sign on as co-sponsors.

NSTA previously identified the under the hood testing requirement for a school bus driver to obtain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) as a major barrier of entry to many applicants interested in entering the profession. Ultimately, NSTA believes that the passage of the Driving Forward Act would lead to a wider adoption of the exemption by State Driver's License Agencies (SDLAs) and would likely expand the school bus driver pool nationwide. Following the 2026 NSTA Capitol Hill Bus-In and its advocacy efforts, Sen. Steve Daines (MT) quickly signed on as a co-sponsor to the Driving Forward Act on March 16, 2026.

The 2026 NSTA Capitol Hill Bus-In program began on Wednesday, March 11, and started with a NSTA Advocacy Team Welcome Reception Luncheon, sponsored by IC Bus, at the Kimpton George Hotel. Following the luncheon, NSTA Members headed to Capitol Hill and held their first day of meetings with U.S. Senate Offices. The day's events were capped off by an evening reception, sponsored by Blue Bird, that served to highlight the efforts of the NSTA Advocacy Team.

On Thursday, March 12, 2026, NSTA members prepped for another day of Capitol Hill meetings at a Rise & Shine Breakfast, sponsored by RC Kelly Law Associates. At its conclusion, the group again took to Capitol Hill for a second day of advocacy efforts – mostly on the House side. The day concluded with the NSTA Advocacy Team Dinner, sponsored by Thomas Built Buses. During the evening, NSTA Members were joined by special guest Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Deputy Administrator Jesse Elison. Elison’s remarks emphasized the importance of maintaining a robust relationship between the FMCSA and private school bus operators.

In total, NSTA members participated in a record of 176 separate meetings with Congressional Offices over the two-day program, as arranged by the Prime Policy Group (NSTA Lobbyist) – with 65 registrants participating.

“The 2026 NSTA Capitol Hill Bus-In was a successful initiative that further strengthened relationships with Congressional representatives. Across two days of advocacy, members emphasized student safety and highlighted the serious dangers of illegal school bus passings,” said NSTA President Patrick Dean.

“I am grateful for the support of NSTA Members who made this important trip Washington and engaged with Congressional Offices at the Capitol Hill Bus-In. NSTA remains confident that these meetings will result in widespread bipartisan support for both safety initiatives. As we have seen, illegal school bus passings have continued to occur, and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) data shows that motorists are unconcerned or unaware of the traffic laws governing operating a motor vehicle in proximity to a stopped school bus,” NSTA Executive Director Curt Macysyn emphasized.

School bus enthusiasts can follow the 2026 NSTA Capitol Hill Bus-In by going to **#26BusIn** on LinkedIn, Instagram, X and Facebook.

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About NSTA: NSTA is the leading resource for school bus transportation solutions and has been the voice for private contractors for over 60 years. We are a membership organization, founded in 1964, for school bus contract-operators engaged primarily in transporting students to and from school and school-related activities. School transportation represents the largest form of mass transportation in the United States, and daily, 25 million K-12 students are transported by an estimated 480,000 yellow school buses nationwide.

NOTE- Photographs Attached

Photo #1 Caption – NSTA returned to Washington, DC for its 2026 NSTA Capitol Hill Bus-In that was hosted on March 11-13, 2026. This group photograph on the U.S. Capitol Hill steps was taken just prior to the commencement of Hill visits by the group.

Photo #2 Caption – As NSTA returned to the Nation’s Capital for their 2026 NSTA Capitol Hill Bus-In, the group engaged in 176 separate meetings on the Hill that included elected officials. Pictured from left to right: Garrett Regan, Minnesota Coaches, U.S. Senator Tina Smith (MN), Shane Johnson, Palmer Bus Service, and John Benjamin, Benjamin Bus.

Photo #3 Caption - From March 11-13, 2026, NSTA Members met directly with members of Congress to raise awareness to the epidemic levels of Illegal Passing throughout the country and to seek support for S.2812, the Brake for Kids Act. Pictured from left to right are John Zaworski, Dean Transportation, Joe Allen, Safe Fleet, Patrick Dean, Dean Transportation and NSTA President, U.S. Senator Gary Peters (MI), Doug Campbell, First Light Safety Products, Brett Kuchiak, First Light Safety Products, and Andrew Boyce, First Light Safety Products.

Photo #4 Caption – The 2026 NSTA Capitol Hill Bus-In concluded with Salute to the NSTA Advocacy Team Dinner on March 12, 2026 with special guest Jesse Elison, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Deputy Administrator. Pictured from left to right are Becky Weber, Prime Policy Group and NSTA Lobbyist, Kim Worster, NSTA President-Elect, Jesse Elison, FMCSA Deputy Administrator, Patrick Dean, NSTA President, and Curt Macysyn, NSTA Executive Director.

2026 NSTA Capitol Hill Bus-In Photographs – See Captions Above

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