Date: / /

Dear Senator\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: OR Dear Assembly Member\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

Thank you for your efforts in the State Budget to show support for school transportation and school bus safety. Ensuring that Transportation Aid remains fully funded and including the $400,000 for School Bus Driver Training are important to school bus safety in our state. Thank you again!

I thought I would take a moment during this Legislative Recess to call your attention to several bills that are under consideration in both houses that would have a tremendous effect on school bus safety. Most of these bills have been under consideration in Committee for several years and each is important on a different level for ensuring the safety of the 2.3 million school children who ride our yellow school buses each day.

These bills address long-standing problems and present realistic and serious solutions that I support as a transportation professional and as a member of the New York Association for Pupil Transportation.  The TIME IS NOW for them to pass a series of school bus safety bills for the children of our state:

* *S.518A-Young/A.321A-Magnarelli:
Allows Stop Arm Cameras on School Buses and Use of the Images from the Cameras to Be Used in Apprehending Motorists who Illegally Pass Stopped School Buses*
* *S.2587C-Marcellino/A.208C-Lupardo:
Allows for Enhanced Drug and Alcohol Testing that would include school bus drivers who drive smaller school buses that are not included under Federal testing regulations*
* *S.2403-Marcellino/A4178-Thiele:
Would create a crime of Criminal Trespass on School Buses to protect drivers and students from unlawful boarding and threats on school buses*
* *S.6393-Ritchie/A.4205-Rosenthal:
Would provide for an Updating of 509cc Disqualifying Crimes which ensure that school bus drivers are ready and qualified to transport our children on a school bus*
* *S.1203-Funke/A.1207-Zebrowski:
Would Increase the Fines for Violations of Section 1174*
* *S.1064- Bonacic/A.719-Gunther
Would provide for a 60-Day Suspension of a Motorist’s License after Multiple 1174 Convictions*
* *S.3276-Parker/A.172-Gantt:
Creates an Education Fund on School Bus Safety from Funds Collected through 1174 Fines*
* *Graduated Penalties for Violations of Section 1174
>S.6393-Ritchie/A.8623-Fahy: Increases Fines for 1174 involving a Vehicle of 26,000 pounds
>S.5907-Ritchie/A.8205-Rosenthal: Repeat 1174 Offenders Must Take Driver Ed Course
>S.5898a-Ritchie/A.8624-Fahy Doubles Fines for 1174 involving Electronic Device/Phone
>S.5974a-Phillips/A.8565a-Rosenthal: DMV Must Include Bus Safety and Illegal Passing in Manual and Driver Tests*

While this appears to be a lengthy “ASK”, each of these bills has been under consideration for several years and we are asking the Legislature to try to get them done this year FOR THE CHILDREN.  We thought the importance of these bills would become clear if arrayed as a comprehensive package that is good for our children and for our bus safety record on their behalf.

I am available to discuss any of these issues with you and I urge you to work hard for the children when you return to Albany next week.

Sincerely,