



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Association for Pupil Transportation and National School Transportation Association Reaffirm Joint Position on Occupant Protection

San Diego, California – The National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) and the National School Transportation Association (NSTA) reaffirm today our joint position on occupant protection in large school buses.

We have for more than a decade participated in an exhaustive discussion of this topic by our industry, including a federal rulemaking process conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). NHTSA is the federal agency responsible for deciding the efficacy of seat belts in all vehicles, including large school buses.

NHTSA has stated most recently that its best advice on the matter of seat belts in large school buses — superseding all other guidance — is contained in a single document: the August 25, 2011, denial of a petition from the Center for Auto Safety (CAS) and others requesting that NHTSA mandate seat belts in large school buses. We encourage everyone to read the entire petition denial notice carefully.

Together, NAPT and NSTA have a long public record of strong advocacy for elevating this discussion to a national level and for seeking science-based rather than emotion-driven or “directionally correct” outcomes. We will continue to work collaboratively in this regard. We want to replace with unequivocal science-based information the emotional arguments and personal opinions that sometimes dominate the conversation about belts on large school buses.

Until such time, however, NSTA and NAPT are confident that states, communities and local school transportation service providers will continue to make decisions that keep yellow school buses as the absolutely safest way for children to get to and from school, and indispensable to our public education system.

The National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) and the National School Transportation Association (NSTA) are the two largest trade associations in the school bus industry. Together, we represent school systems and their contract service providers that operate more than 468,000 yellow school buses and transport nearly 25 million children to and from school and school-related activities each school day.