



National School Transportation Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **National School Transportation Association Applauds the Trump Administration's Withdrawal of the Obama Administration's Safety Fitness Determination Proposal**

Alexandria, VA –The National School Transportation Association (NSTA) applauds the Trump Administration's withdrawal of the Obama Administration's Carrier Safety Fitness Determination proposal and thanks Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao for her swift action on this most important issue. NSTA also acknowledges the efforts of many Members of Congress who assisted NSTA on this issue, including House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster, House Appropriations Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee Chairman Mario Diaz-Balart, and Representatives Lou Barletta, and Bob Gibbs, each of whom supported NSTA in halting this ill-advised proposal.

In January 2016 the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, under the administration of President Barack Obama, issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to revise the Safety Fitness Determination for motor carriers. The proposal would have had a devastating effect on the industry by replacing existing safety ratings and creating only one rating, "Unfit" or nothing, leaving customers with very limited guidance on carriers' safety records. In addition, the proposal was built on data and methodology from the flawed Compliance, Safety and Accountability (CSA)/Safety Measurement System (SMS) program, which Congress has already directed to undergo significant reform in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. Those reforms are just underway this year. NSTA sought those reforms and believes those reforms should be completed prior to any new Safety Fitness Determination method being proposed.

"School bus transportation is 70 times safer than any other mode of transportation and safety is of the utmost importance to our industry. NSTA believes it critical that regulators arrive at an accurate and clear method to evaluate carriers' safety fitness for the benefit of the general public. It does not make sense to propose a new evaluation method based on a flawed CSA system and inconsistent data, especially when that data is under review by the National Academy of Sciences. We are grateful that our voice has been heard on this issue." offered NSTA Executive Director Ronna Weber.

### *About NSTA:*

*The National School Transportation Association has been the voice of private school bus contractors, manufacturers and suppliers for over 50 years. The association provides school transportation professionals with the tools and resources they need to make school buses safe, affordable, and efficient nationwide. Offices are at 122 South Royal Street Alexandria, VA 22314. Phone: 703-684-3200. Fax: 703-684-3212.*