Press Release

National School Bus Associations Stand Together to Support STOP for School Buses Act of 2019

July 10, 2019

Alexandria, VA- Today, the Presidents of the National School Transportation Association (NSTA), the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT), and the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) sent a joint letter to Members of Congress expressing support for the STOP for School Buses Act of 2019 (H.R. 2218/S. 1254) addressing illegal passing of school buses. Collectively, the three organizations represent the nation’s school transportation community, including all operators of school buses both public and private and state regulators of school buses.

The STOP Act was introduced in the House by Congresswomen Jackie Walorski (R-IN) and Julia Brownley (D-CA), and in the Senate by Senators Todd Young (R-IN) and Gary Peters (D-MI). The bipartisan legislation calls upon the Department of Transportation to undertake a comprehensive review of all issues involved with illegal passing of school buses and make recommendations to Congress on best practices to deal with this pervasive, national safety problem. The associations expressed their appreciation for the ongoing efforts of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to study illegal passing and develop safety countermeasures and added that successful passage of the bill will enable NHTSA to broaden its efforts on all aspects of illegal passing and expedite best practice recommendations.

School bus transportation remains the safest form of transportation compared to all other modes according to DOT statistics. However, school bus riders remain vulnerable during the portion of their trip when they are waiting at bus stops, crossing streets, and loading or unloading from the school bus due to the problem of illegal passing of stopped school buses. The letter cites the data from the annual observational survey (www.nasdpts.org/StopArm) in 2018, in which 105,306 school bus drivers in 38 states and DC reported 83,944 vehicles illegally passed their stopped school buses in one day. Based on these observations, an estimated 15 million vehicles illegally pass stopped school buses in a 180-day school year.

Blake Krapf, President of NSTA said, “I appreciate the support of my colleagues, Barry Sudduth, President of the NAPT and Michael LaRocco, President of NASDPTS, in support of this important legislation. Standing together as an industry, we can bring this bill across the finish line and save the children we transport to and from school from these completely preventable tragedies.”

NSTA, NAPT, and NASDPTS urge Members of Congress to support the legislation and enact it as soon as possible. For more information, please contact NSTA (www.yellowbuses.org), NAPT (www.napt.org), or NASDPTS (www.nasdpts.org).

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