



**For Immediate Release**

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### **Fuel Tax Exemption Preserved in the Senate Finance Committee**

**ALEXANDRIA, V.A.** – This week, the National School Transportation Association activated to protect against efforts afoot in the Senate threatening the federal fuel tax exemption for school buses. Through a major grassroots effort of letters and phone calls, NSTA called upon members of the Senate Finance Committee to help defend against any effort to undo this important exemption, which would have been tantamount to imposing a tax increase on private school bus transportation providers.

The Senate Finance Committee held a nearly four-hour mark-up of the tax title to the surface transportation reauthorization bill on Tuesday, February 7. The bill extends federal fuel taxes and also includes a variety of provisions to secure additional revenue to augment highway trust fund revenues in order to fund the Senate two year bill which funds highway, transit and motor carrier safety programs. Though repeal of the motorcoach and school bus fuel tax exemptions were under consideration, due in large part to NSTA's timely outreach efforts, no repeal provision was included in the Chairman's bill. It was also not subject to any amendments or offered as an offset for other amendments that proposed to change the bill's revenue provisions.

NSTA appreciates Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) and Ranking Member Orrin Hatch (R-UT) for their leadership in helping to ensure this harmful provision was not included in the bill. We salute their efforts to bringing forth a fair and balanced surface transportation reauthorization bill. NSTA will continue to advocate for preservation of the school bus fuel tax exemption as the bill moves to the Senate floor.

#### ***About NSTA***

*The National School Transportation Association is a trade organization representing school bus contractors. For 40 years, it has been dedicated to safe, secure and efficient transportation of children, and works to foster improvements in all areas of pupil transportation.*

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