



August 15, 2019

Dear Member of Congress:

I am writing to you today to encourage you to co-sponsor the STOP for School Buses Act of 2019 (H.R. 2218/S.1254), introduced in the House by Congresswoman 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 American Bus (ABA) serves a thriving industry providing more than 600 million passenger trips annually on charters, tours, scheduled service and shuttles. While ABA's primary focus is motorcoach and tour operations, our membership collectively operates over 15,000 school buses and it is that focus for which I am writing you today.

The STOP for School Buses Act focuses on the most significant issue facing school transportation today – the illegal passing of stopped school buses. Specifically, the bill would require the Department of Transportation (DOT) to comprehensively review all of the issues and laws attendant to illegal passing and make recommendations on best practices to Congress. The bill would also require the creation of a much needed public safety campaign to educate drivers on the dangers of illegally passing stopped school buses.

Travel by school bus is one of the safest forms of transportation available, with children being 70 times safer traveling to and from school in a yellow school bus than by walking, biking or riding in a parent's car. Cars illegally passing stopped school buses, however, place every child boarding or exiting a school bus in significant and unnecessary danger. Illegal passings have grown so significant that the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS), through the state directors of school transportation in each state, conducts an annual survey of illegal passings of stopped school buses each year. In 2019 this survey found sample results extrapolated out indicate over 17 million violations nationwide over the 180-day school year (nasdpts.org). This is simply unacceptable and I, on behalf of my members, ask for your help today to draw attention to and address this very important safety matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter J. Pantuso". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Peter J. Pantuso
President & CEO