



# New York School Bus Contractors Association

Promoting safe, reliable and cost-effective student transportation

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**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

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**\*\*NYSBCA APPLAUDS SENATORS SCHUMER, GILLIBRAND, AND THE NY CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION FOR SECURING CRITICAL EMERGENCY FEDERAL RELIEF FOR THE SCHOOL BUS INDUSTRY\*\***

New York, NY-- The New York School Bus Contractors Association (“NYSBCA”) represents approximately 200 private school bus companies that employ over 45,000 school bus drivers, matrons, mechanics, and support staff throughout New York State. Over 63% of New York’s school districts contract out their student transportation to private school bus contractors and our industry is proud to safely transport over 1.4 million students who ride a yellow school bus to and from school each day in New York.

NYSBCA applauds Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, and the NY Congressional Delegation for all of their work to ensure that the school industry was included in the Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services Act.

“I was proud to co-sponsor the Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services (CERTS) Act and I am pleased to deliver \$2bn in much needed emergency support for the motorcoach and school bus industries which have been particularly hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Senator Schumer. “As we head into the new year, I will continue to fight for the needed relief that transportation businesses and their employees require to keep us all moving.”

NYSBCA thanks these elected officials for truly understanding the essential government service our industry provides as well as the clear critical public policy need to secure the stability of school bus drivers and fleets so that they’re safe, ready and available for students. As we know, a school bus is by far the safest mode of pupil transportation.

Even when buses are idle, companies and districts have fixed costs to pay, including insurance, maintenance and paying drivers and matrons. Without these costs being reimbursed, it will essentially bankrupt the industry, force companies to close, and leave school districts without the public-private partnerships they have formed with school bus contractors over many decades. We have already started to see the consequences of this here in New York as one of the largest school bus companies in Long Island closed its doors and filed for bankruptcy in May 2020.

Year after year, our members safely transport children to and from school every day. Now is the time to secure the experienced workforce by keeping them employed, paying their wages and continuing their medical benefits. Student transportation remains the backbone of the educational system, and this important industry must be protected.

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