



S U P P O R T

MEMORANDUM IN

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A.4950B – Magnarelli / S.4524B – Kennedy

The CSEA strongly supports this legislation.

This bill amends various sections of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, General Municipal Law, Public Officers Law, and Education Law to establish a demonstration program for the use of school bus safety cameras.

Every day, thousands of motorists inexplicably ignore flashing red lights and illegally pass school buses while they are loading and unloading children. One survey estimated that nearly 55,000 drivers passed a stopped school bus on a single day in New York, including nearly 700 cases of drivers passing on the side where students were boarding and exiting. This blatant disregard for student safety can result in the worst thing imaginable – the death of a child.

This legislation would help to protect children by allowing, at local option, the installation of cameras to capture vehicles that illegally pass stopped school buses and establish penalties for drivers that do so. This is a common-sense proposal that will have an outsized impact on the safety of school children, bus drivers and monitors, and the general public.

On behalf of more than 300,000 active and retired, public and private employees across New York State, CSEA strongly urges the passage of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Turner
Director