



S U P P O R T

Senate Committee on Education

MEMORANDUM IN

S U P P O R T

OF

S.5705 – Mayer / A.7538A - Benedetto

The CSEA strongly supports this legislation.

This bill amends section 2801-a of the Education Law to require that school bus drivers and monitors be included in district-wide and building-level school safety teams.

School safety plans are a critical component of ensuring that our children are provided with a safe and secure environment where they can grow and learn. Unfortunately, there is no requirement that school bus drivers or monitors be included on the teams that develop such plans.

Millions of parents across the state put their children on a school bus every morning expecting that their child will be as safe and secure while on their way to and from school as they are while inside of the school building itself. While district-wide and building-level safety teams must include “other school personnel,” bus drivers and monitors are often not included. The lack of input from these vitally important employees is a major weakness in the development of safe schools. This bill will help to ensure that school safety plans take into account the expertise and experience of school bus personnel to provide a safer environment for students and staff.

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