



S U P P O R T

MEMORANDUM IN

SUPPORT

OF

Protecting Highway Workers

CSEA strongly supports proposals to improve the safety of workers in highway work zones.

Part B of S.2508 / A.3008 would implement a series of measures to improve work zone safety, including increased penalties for assaulting or menacing a highway worker or intruding into an active work zone. These proposals are all positive steps that would show that the State is taking seriously the risks faced by transportation workers.

However, all of these proposals are reactionary. Regardless of whether a driver is punished for injuring a highway worker, at the end of the day a highway worker is still injured. What is really needed to make work zones safer is a change in driver behavior that will prevent more injuries, not just punish offenders after the fact.

Work zone speed cameras have a proven record of success in the states where they have been implemented. Maryland saw an 80% reduction in speeding violations and a 50% drop in fatalities after implementing speed cameras. A study of work zone cameras in Illinois found that cameras were as effective in reducing speed as having a police car present in the work zone. In Oregon, the mean speed of vehicles in work zones dropped by 10.5 mph when cameras were in use.

A work zone speed camera program makes sense for New York as a way to make our roads safer for workers and drivers alike, and to ensure that the dedicated CSEA members that make our roads safe for travel get to go home safe at the end of the day.

On behalf of 300,000 active and retired, public and private sector employees, CSEA urges the passage of the proposals contained in Part B of S.2508 / A.3008, as well as the inclusion of a work zone speed camera program.

Respectfully submitted,

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Director