



S U P P O R T

MEMORANDUM IN

SUPPORT

TO

Part H of S.4008 / A.3008

Preventing Violence Against Public Employees

The CSEA strongly supports Part H of the *Transportation and Economic Development* Article VII legislation. This proposal would increase criminal penalties for assaulting transportation-related titles, including titles in the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and Department of Transportation (DOT).

Workers should have the right to go to work and be protected from violence. However, for many employees, they face daily threats of violence while simply doing their job. This tends to happen in positions that interact with the public while also being required to inspect a vehicle or conduct a licensing test for an individual.

Motor vehicle license examiners are employees of the DMV who conduct in-person examinations to determine driver's license eligibility are very susceptible to violence. Examiners conduct road tests alone in desolate parts of cities or rural areas, making them sitting ducks when it comes to an examinee who is unhappy with the outcome of their exam.

Violence against these workers is all too common. In a survey conducted by the state DMV and CSEA of license examiners, more than 50 percent of respondents said that they experienced instances of workplace violence. These violent acts included being kidnapped, slapped, punched, screamed at, and verbally threatened with physical violence.

Increasing the penalties for assaulting these workers will help deter future assaults and help make sure that employees can go to work without fear of being assaulted or killed while doing their job.

On behalf of 300,000 active and retired, public and private employees across New York State, CSEA urges the legislature to support this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,
Fran Turner
Director

FRAN TURNER
Director

JOSHUA TERRY
Legislative Director

BEN PARSONS
Legislative Representative