



S U P P O R T

MEMORANDUM IN

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OF

S.4647 – Kennedy

The CSEA strongly supports this legislation.

This bill amends various sections of Vehicle and Traffic Law, Transportation Law, and State Finance Law to increase safety for employees in highway work zones.

Working on or near traveled roads is one of the most dangerous environments for CSEA members. Every day, workers across the state deal with heavy equipment, weather, and hazardous materials to keep our state roadways clean and safe. In addition to the hazards of the work itself, road workers are forced to dodge distracted and impaired drivers. Sadly, a number of these workers never make it back home after being killed in a work zone. Something must be done to protect the dedicated public employees who make our roads and other transportation infrastructure safe for travel.

This legislation would help to protect these workers by establishing new fines for endangering a highway worker by unsafe driving in a work zone. A portion of the fines collected for violations of these provisions would be used to fund increased safety measures in work zones, including work zone markings, radar speed display signs, and police monitoring of work areas. The bill would also require the Governor's traffic safety committee to design and implement a public education and outreach program relating to work zone safety.

These reforms are common-sense measures to protect the men and women who make our state run.

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