



CSTA

California School Transportation Association



The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives

October 22, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of California School Transportation Association (CSTA), I am writing to you to urge your support for the Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services Act (**CERTS Act**) (**S 4150/HR 7642**), introduced jointly by Senators Reed and Collins and Representatives LaHood, Sires, Young and Lowenthal and its **inclusion in a COVID relief package currently being negotiated**. CSTA represents private sector school bus contractors and provides one third of California's school bus transportation service. For the survival of our businesses and continued availability of the safest form of transportation for our state's schoolchildren, it is imperative that we receive federal funding support.

The bipartisan CERTS Act provides much needed grant and economic assistance to the private school bus transportation, motorcoach, and US flag domestic passenger vessel industries that have been overlooked in previously enacted COVID-19 economic relief packages. The CERTS Act currently has 59 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate and 263 in the House, including 37 cosponsors from California, which is 69% of our delegation. Given this strong support from both chambers and our State, we hope the bill will be included in the next COVID relief package.

The Nations school transportation community has experienced reduced or lapsed payments due to school closures in the spring, cancellation of summer school and sporting activities. Unlike other forms of transportation such as airlines, rail and public transit, our industry has not received any direct form of financial relief thus far, placing us in a perilous position.

School bus transportation is an extension of the education system and for many, the only way to get to and from school. For 26 million children, their trained and skilled professional school bus driver is the first and last person they see during their school day. It is critical to ensure the continued viability of school bus transportation for these children that rely on the yellow school bus. Please help to preserve our businesses and this critical school transportation industry.

Thank you for your support. Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information.
Sincerely,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Kinney".

Ron Kinney, Executive Secretary
California School Transportation Association
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Cc:

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Kamala Harris
California Members of the House of Representatives

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