

NATIONAL ISSUES IN PUPIL TRANSPORTATION



05/17/04 AP Photo



AMERICAN SCHOOL BUS COUNCIL

- Associations
 - National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT)
 - National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS)
 - National School Transportation Association (NSTA)
- Manufacturers
 - Blue Bird Corp.
 - IC Corp.
 - Thomas Built Buses

www.americanschoolbuscouncil.org



American School Bus Council

- Our Purpose
 - Transporting as many children as possible in the safety of school buses
 - Inform parents and legislators about the advantages of dedicated school transportation
- Our Goals
 - Increased awareness
 - Increased ridership
 - Securing federal funding



ASBC Messages

Message One: Safest Vehicles on the Road

Message Two: Trained, Professional Drivers

**Message Three: Essential for Children and
Convenient for Parents**

TOOLKIT (Distributed at Trade Show)



ASBC-Future Emphasis

- “Yellow is the New Green”
- Economic reality for parents
- Anticipate more students on buses



LOVE THE BUS

An Activity of the ASBC:

- Celebrate Valentine's Day
- Appreciate Drivers
- Generate Positive Publicity



Love The Bus: Food



**AMERICAN
SCHOOL BUS
COUNCIL™**

LOVE THE BUS: Media



Love the Bus: Food



**AMERICAN
SCHOOL BUS
COUNCIL™**

Love the Bus: Cards



**AMERICAN
SCHOOL BUS
COUNCIL™**

Love the Bus: Food





**AMERICAN
SCHOOL BUS
COUNCIL™**

Security Act - HR1

- ACT entitled “Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission ACT of 2007”.
- Signed by President Bush, August 3, 2007



Sec. 1538. School Bus Transportation Security

- Security Risk Assessment Within 1 year of enactment of Security Act HR1
- Assessment of security risks to school bus system, including public and private systems
- Assessment of actions already taken
- Assessment of whether additional actions and investments are necessary



Security Act-Status

- Contractor Hired-ABS Consulting
- TSA met with NAPT/NASDPTS/NSTA
- Assessment due Aug 3
- TSA – Highway Safety Meeting in Nashville, TN Sept 4-5



NHTSA and Seat Belts

- Roundtable hosted by NHTSA Administrator Nicole Nason and DOT Secretary Mary Peters
 - Several testimonies from industry professionals
- NHTSA proposed rulemaking – Nov. 2007



Rulemaking Proposal

- Required 3 point belts on small buses
- Standards for lap belts AND 3 point belts on large buses
- Required high back seats
- Money from Gov Highway Safety offices can be used to offset difference in cost
- Requires 15” rump room regardless of size



Status

- Many responses submitted to the docket
- Responses from the 3 associations
 - NSTA: Leave it to the states
 - NASDPTS: Require 3 point belts and provide funding
 - NAPT: 1st, complete testing and show that lap/shoulder belts will provide safety benefit



What's Next?

We anticipate that NHTSA will issue a federal rule.....



FMCSA NPRM- Training Requirements for Entry- Level CDL Operators

- Proposes Significant Increase in Pre-licensing Training for CDL Drivers Intending to Drive Interstate (90-120 hrs)
- Training Must be Provided by an Accredited School
- 3 Year Implementation Period



Concerns with the FMCSA NPRM

- NPRM Identified no School Bus Driver Training Concerns
- NPRM Identified no School Bus Interstate Concerns
- NPRM Significantly Underestimated the Potential Number of Bus Drivers Affected



- Exemplary Safety Record of School Buses
- Existing Quality Training Programs that are State/Local Specific
- Many Districts/States provide CDL Training/Testing
- Potential Administrative Concerns with Differing Levels of Drivers/Training



School Bus Watch Update

- American Trucking Association out as contractor
- HMS Inc.-new contractor
- Toll free # not working
- Cards not being distributed



NATIONAL ISSUES IN PUPIL TRANSPORTATION



05/17/04 AP Photo

