



Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation

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The Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation (VAPT) respectfully offers the following resolution in opposition to House Bill No. 809 as currently written.

WHEREAS: The pupil transportation department of the local school divisions throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia are dedicated to providing the safest and most efficient transportation for all students; and

WHEREAS: Attaching outside advertising to the bus would surely involve penetrating the body of the bus; and

WHEREAS: Any device(s) used for securing advertisements must be designed to prevent the snagging of children's clothing, backpacks or other items; and

WHEREAS: Covering the bus with advertisements would make buses vulnerable to graffiti and other vandalism; and

WHEREAS: There are no guarantees that revenues derived from the sale of advertising won't replace revenue appropriated to support student transportation; and

WHEREAS: Advertising changes the definitive and identifiable features that make the school bus "sacred" with distinctive school bus yellow, unique flashing warning lamp systems, stop arm signal, front safety crossing gate, yellow reflective tape around various areas of the bus, and

WHEREAS: These distinctive features send a clear message to motorists that children are present and extreme caution is required; and

WHEREAS: Advertising will mar the distinctive safety features of the yellow school bus because it displaces some of them and is designed to catch the attention of passing motorists, thus creating a distraction, and

WHEREAS: Studies by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) verify that inattention and distraction cause a significant percentage of crashes, and

WHEREAS: According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2008, almost 20 percent of all crashes involved some type of distraction, and

WHEREAS: No amount of revenue generated from advertising on school buses can justify the loss of one child due to driver distraction, the safety of the students must come first; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED: The Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation does hereby oppose House Bill No. 809, a bill to amend and reenact 22.1-177 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the sale of advertising space on school buses.

Given under my hand this fifth day of February in the year two thousand and eighteen.

Michael Ashby
Chairman, VAPT Resolutions Committee