



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. 914 as currently written.

WHEREAS: The pupil transportation departments 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: The Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation recognizes and supports the benefits of using school buses specifically designed to transport students; and

WHEREAS: In the Commonwealth of Virginia, approximately 16,000 yellow school buses transport an estimated 800,000 children to and from school each day. Each year, these buses travel approximately 200,946,422 miles; and

WHEREAS: There is a big difference between tractor trailer trucks and buses, one carries students and the other carries cargo; and

WHEREAS: Parents trust us with the lives of their children and we owe parents and students the best trained drivers that we can employ; and

WHEREAS: Someone who drives a tractor trailer may not have the patience and understanding to transport children; and

WHEREAS: Training is expensive, but reducing that training for a specific group of people would be to the detriment of the students that ride the school bus. There is not one person in the Commonwealth of Virginia that transports students who would like to see a newspaper headline “Students killed because of ill trained bus driver”; and

WHEREAS: Many of the topics that are taught during bus driver training include how to deal with student management, parents, first aid and discipline procedures; and

WHEREAS: The 48 hours of training presently in place, only begins to give trainers an idea of how an applicant will perform behind the wheel of a school bus with children. Not everyone can handle the stress of driving with children; and

WHEREAS: Being a professional school bus driver is all about safety and training. Because of the precious cargo that ride school buses, there can never be enough training; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED: The Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation does hereby oppose House Bill No. 914, a bill to amend and reenact section 22.1 – 181 and 46.2-339 of the Code of Virginia that would reduce the number of hours required for bus driver trainees.

Given under my hand this nineteenth day of January in the year two thousand eighteen.

Michael Ashby,

Chairman, VAPT Legislative Committee