



ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

March 25, 2013

The Honorable Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

RE: Reducing School Transportation Funding

Dear Governor Quinn:

I am writing to you in an effort to provide some information that may have been over looked as you consider reducing school transportation funding.

At this moment, the proposed budget is for 61.2 million dollars for regular education transportation. In reality regular school transportation requires approximately 315 million dollars. If this budget is approved, it will have the following effect. School districts would not be able to afford transporting students to or from school, or would need to transfer funds from the General Education fund to the Transportation fund. Transportation for regular education would cease to exist in some school districts. While some options may be available in larger metropolitan areas, rural school districts would suffer the most harm.

The economy would be impacted because of the nearly 25,000 school bus drivers whose jobs would be in jeopardy. Parents would then carry the burden of filling their fuel tanks more often to transport their children to school. The environmental impact of replacing buses with parent driven automobiles is unfathomable. One school bus on the road represents 36 cars off of the road. The amount of pollution, traffic congestion, and safety concerns is not worth the price of cutting funding.

School bus transportation is the safest mode of transportation in the United States. Lives would be put at risk as more cars are forced on the road. These cars might have young, inexperienced students driving. The risk is compounded in Illinois, especially north of Interstate 80 where conditions are the most crowded, during winters' darkest, coldest, icy, and snowiest conditions of the school year.

One possible solution to the problem would be the installation of Stop Arm cameras. These cameras would not only help reduce risky driving behaviors with proper enforcement, but the revenue raised by the violators could help fund revenue already lost for regular school transportation.

I am asking you to give serious thought to our position on the proposed transportation funding cuts and to consider the negative effects I have just summarized. Your decision will be one of important significance to our society and future.

Sincerely,

Donald L West
President Illinois Association for Pupil Transportation
2000 Christina Street
Rockford, IL 61104
815-966-3708

