



Connecticut School Transportation Association

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Statement by
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Before the
Judiciary Committee
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**S.B. No. 670 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING FAILURE TO REMOVE SNOW AND
ICE FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE IN OPERATION.**

Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, Honorable Members of the Judiciary
Committee . . .

My name is William D. Moore. I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut School Transportation Association – COSTA. COSTA is a trade association comprised of owners and operators of school buses, student transportation vehicles and other associate members. Our membership of more than 125 companies and Boards of Education includes nearly all of the providers of student transportation in Connecticut. Together, they operate more than 7,400 school buses and 200 Student Transportation Vehicles that transport nearly 500,000 children to and from school safely every day.

I am appearing before you today regarding S.B. No. 670 (RAISED) *An Act Concerning Failure to Remove Snow and Ice from a Motor Vehicle in Operation*. On behalf of COSTA and our member companies, I respectfully urge you to exempt school buses from this measure.

The act prohibits the operation of any motor vehicle with an accumulation of snow or ice or a combination of snow and ice in excess of two inches in thickness. The fine imposed is to be not more than ten dollars (\$10.00) per square foot or any part thereof of accumulation of snow or ice or any combination.

There is simply no safe way to remove accumulated snow or ice from the roof of a school bus.

A school bus is approximately twelve (12) feet in height. There is no ladder on the school bus; there are no steps on a bus that will allow an individual to safely climb on top of a school bus to remove any accumulated snow or ice in the bus yard. Raising a ladder along-side of a school bus in the bus yard so that a person can climb up and remove the accumulation would put that individual at risk of falling because the ladder would be balanced upon the snow or ice accumulated on the ground, clearly a dangerous situation. Ladder manufacturers warn against climbing on a ladder that is on snow or ice.

Some have suggested that a scraper can be used. They suggest that the school buses can drive under the scraper and the accumulated snow and ice can be removed from the roofs as the bus is leaving the bus yard. They point out that large trucks are often cleared in this fashion. Unfortunately, the school bus roof is not a flat surface. There are emergency escape hatches and vents on the roof of the school bus, unlike the roof of a truck. A scraper would easily rip these important safety devices off of the roof of the school bus.

It has not been a problem of snow flying off of school buses. School buses generally travel on city or town roads at a speed that does not cause the snow or ice to fly off the tops of the vehicles. As you know, school bus roofs are designed with a sloping roofline. This not only provides additional safety for the children, but also allows the accumulated snow and ice to slide off of the roof and down the sides of the school buses as the snow and ice melts.

On behalf of COSTA and our members, I am respectfully requesting that you exempt school buses from this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I will be happy to answer any questions that you might have.