



March 4, 2009

To: Transportation Committee

From: Terry Edelstein, President/CEO

Re: **Testimony on S.B. 1073 An Act Making Revisions to Statutes Concerning the DMV**

We would like to comment on Section 12 of S.B. 1073 regarding the definitions and requirements of “student transportation” vehicles.

CCPA represents organizations that provide services and supports for people with disabilities and significant challenges including children and adults with substance use disorders, mental illness, developmental, and physical disabilities. Our members are involved in transporting children and adolescents to and from school and from school to recreational activities through our group home, residential treatment, Extended Day Treatment and other DCF-funded service models.

This section attempts to reconcile competing provisions in the DMV and DCF statutes and policies regarding “student transportation vehicle.” The language proposed in Section 12 would require everyone operating a “student transportation vehicle...activity vehicle, camp vehicle...” to obtain an operator’s license “bearing an endorsement of the appropriate type” from the DMV commissioner.

We have been in discussions with DCF about the inconsistency in legislation between DCF and DMV regarding student transportation. This proposed legislation would require all transporters to utilize this higher standard with its more costly protocols. While this proposed legislation will require this endorsement, DCF contracts don’t include the additional funding to comply with this standard, including the training component.

We would like an opportunity to work with the Committee and DMV and DCF officials to come to common ground on a licensing and endorsement policy that is consistent between the two agencies, is a standard with which we can comply and one that is most consistent with our mission of providing supports and services to children and adolescents in community settings.

**CCPA**

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