**(Draft Letter to local police officers)**

*(Date)*

*(Address)*

Dear Chief \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ :

As you are aware, RSA265:54 of the state Vehicle and Traffic Law requires motorists to come to a full stop when approaching a stopped school bus with Red Lights flashing and stop arm extended. On May 1, 2018, in just 25 NH communities 83 vehicles passed school buses illegally on a single day. These sample results alone show for a 180-day school year over 14,940 violations by private motorists may occur. Although New Hampshire is proud of our safety record, and in recent history no child has been killed or severely injured by a motorist violating the Red-Light law, it is only a matter of time before repeated violations result in such an event.

In New Hampshire every year many children are needlessly placed in harm’s wayby motorists who pass stopped school buses loading and unloading student passengers. A statewide plan of action is in place for a one-day event on **Monday, October 21, 2019** to help elevate awareness of this serious safety problem. This plan of action is titled **Operation Safe Stop.**

**Operation Safe Stop** is aimed at educating the motoring public that passing a stopped school bus is dangerous and illegal. It is a combined effort of state, county and local law enforcement agencies, school personnel, school bus contractors, and the media to drive home this message to the motoring public.

Our school bus drivers are identifying locations on routes in your community where motorists daily pass their stopped school buses loading and unloading during the a.m. and p.m. We are requesting a meeting to discuss how your department might participate in this one day event. It would involve one or more officers for an hour in the a.m. and p.m. to assist in those locations where these violations take place daily.

Please contact me at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(phone)* to learn more about this important event.

Your involvement in Operation Safe Stop will help ensure the safety of all children.

Sincerely,

*(Signature)*

*(Title, school or company name)*