School Bus Press Advisory

**DATE:**

**CONTACT:** *(MEDIA CONTACT PERSON)*

**There is something we can do to keep our children safe, and we are getting ready to do it!**

On **Monday, October 21, 2019**, our school district will cooperate with local, county and state law enforcement officials in a program that will:

* Educate the public on laws about and the dangers of illegally passing stopped school buses with red lights flashing and the stop arm extended; and
* Increase police presence, targeting of violators of this law.

Specifically, RSA 265:54 of the state Vehicle and Traffic Law requires ALL motorists to come to full stop when approaching a school bus stopped with its red lights flashing and stop arm extended. Despite this law, New Hampshire school bus drivers experience motorists illegally passing their buses every day.

You may not know: on May 1, 2018, **Operation Safe Stop**, conducted in just 25 New Hampshire communities identified 83 violations. For a 180-day school year, over 14,940 violations by private motorists take place in NH.

We cannot allow this to continue to happen in New Hampshire.

Efforts are being made, when a school bus driver is able to obtain a sufficient description of a vehicle illegally passing, and reports the violation to local law enforcement, appropriate action may be taken. But clearly this has not been enough to reduce this most dangerous behavior by other motorists.

This is why, in cooperation with the NH DMV, DOS and local law enforcement the 2nd annual, state-sponsored **Operation Safe Stop Day** will be held on **Monday, October 21, 2019**, kicking off **New Hampshire’s School Bus Safety Week**.

We are asking the media to help keep our children safe by covering our events of the day, including news coverage highlighting the dangers of illegally passing school buses loading or unloading children. This is your opportunity to perform a major public service.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions, want to get involved or need additional information.

Also available are prepared PSA videos that I would be happy to share with you.

Regards,

*(name)*

School Transportation Supervisor