

**Michigan Association  
for Pupil Transportation**

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June 22, 2020

Representative Jason Sheppard  
N-990 House Office Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Representative Sheppard:

The Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation wants to register its support for HB-5861. The Association represents 800 school bus fleets transporting 582,488 schoolchildren on 12,450 school buses, 880,000 miles to and from school every day. Railroad crossings present serious problems for school bus drivers. Michigan law requires school buses to stop for all railroad crossings. Over half of all rear-end crashes to school buses happen at railroad crossings. In May 2019, a Texas school bus driver did not stop at an open railroad crossing and was hit by a train fatally injuring a student passenger. A school bus driver for whatever reason not stopping at a railroad crossing may precipitate a catastrophic outcome.

HB-5861 proposes creating a Local Grade Separation Fund. The fund would incentivize local jurisdictions to apply for an 80-20% funding match to construct a grade separation at a railroad and highway intersection. At such a grade separation, school buses need not stop removing over half of our rear-end crashes and ending all-together the catastrophic result of a school bus train collision.

Michigan's 800 school bus fleet administrators, on behalf of the 582,488 schoolchildren they transport, urge support for HB-5861.

Sincerely yours,

*Mac*

Howard "Mac" Dashney  
Senior Advisor  
Legislation Committee Chairperson  
Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation

CC: Katrina Morris, President MAPT  
David Meeuwsen, Executive Director

