

**Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation
Testimony in Support of House bills-5038, 5039, 5040, 5041, & 5042
Submitted to House Committee for
Military, Veterans, and Homeland Security
Tuesday, October 22, 2019
By Howard "Mac" Dashney**

Chairman LaFave, members of the Military, Veterans, and Homeland Security Committee:

I am asking for your support for a package of House bills (HB-5038, HB-5039, HB-5040, HB-5041, and HB-5042), recently introduced (October 8, 2019). These bills deal with two areas of risk to our schoolchildren – motorists illegally passing stopped school buses and individuals attempting to enter a school bus to do harm to its occupants.

Illegally passing stopped school buses are at epidemic proportions. Nationally¹ motorists illegally pass stopped school buses displaying flashing red lights 95,000 times each school *day*! That equates to 17,100,000 illegal pass-bys per school year. More pass-bys occur annually than the total populations of 46 of 50 of our United States.

In our own state of Michigan, during the last three years the average is 622 illegal pass-bys² per school *day*! That equates to 111,960 illegal pass-bys per school year. If school bus pass-bys were a city, it would rank as the 8th largest city in Michigan. Our schoolchildren need your help.

These bills provide appropriately stronger sanctions for violating school bus stop laws. There will be realistic mass media commercials educating Michigan motorists of these new sanctions. MAPT, West Shore ESD, and NASCAR are working together to produce commercials to educate and warn motorists of the risks to schoolchildren of illegally passing stopped school buses.

Our schoolchildren need your help, please support these House bills: HB-5038, HB-5039, HB-5040, HB-5041, and HB-5042.

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¹ National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services, www.nasdpts.org, National Stop Arm Count: 2017, 2018, & 2019

² National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services, www.nasdpts.org, National Stop Arm Count: 2017, 2018, & 2019