



OREGON STATE SENATE

I'm here today as a co-sponsor of Senate Bill 787, a proposal to keep Oregon school children safe.

SB 787 provides for photo enforcement of school bus stop arm violations. Multiple time a day, school buses come to a stop, their red lights flash, and they deploy their stop arm with the red flashing lights.

Unfortunately, not every motorist stops. In fact, a 28 state study conducted by the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services found that more than 88,000 vehicles illegally pass 100,000 school buses in just one day. That represents more than 16 million illegal passes nationally in a typical school year.

We can't put a police car behind every school bus, and we can't ask school bus drivers to try to get the license plate of every car that blows by as current law states. What we can do is make this new tool available to school districts that need it to address this problem as they see fit.

There is no mandate in this bill. It allows districts and communities to opt in, and address this problem. Every citation is reviewed by law enforcement. When they deem that a violation triggered by the photo system has occurred, they send the registered the citation just as communities that have photo radar or photo red light.

I understand that not everyone is a supporter of photo enforcement. That's why this is permissive for communities and districts. I think that allowing communities to add this to school buses makes sense.

I hope that you will support SB 787. It's my understanding that members of law enforcement and the school community are also here to testify in support of this proposal and appreciate what they will add to this conversation.