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**Statement issued by the Presidents of NASDPTS, NAPT and NSTA
School Bus Safety Week
October 20, 2005**

School Bus Safety Week was created to educate students, parents and the motoring public and enhance the safety of our nation's children transported in school buses. Celebrated throughout the United States and supported by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) each year, School Bus Safety Week also recognizes the hard work and dedication of school transportation professionals, especially the school bus drivers who ensure a safe journey for our children each and every day.

Travel on a school bus is the safest form of ground transportation available, eight times safer than travel in the family car. As good as that might be, when it comes to the safety of our children zero tolerance is the expectation. On average, seven school-age passengers are killed in school bus accidents each year and 19 children are killed in and around the school bus loading zone. Thus, the importance of school bus safety, education and training cannot be emphasized enough.

The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation, the National Association for Pupil Transportation and the National School Transportation Association

take pride in supporting public and private school bus carriers throughout the U.S. in providing the safest form of transportation to the nation's children. Collectively, we support School Bus Safety Week and encourage any and all activities designed to improve safety.

On October 18, 2005, Congressman John J. "Jimmy" Duncan of Tennessee introduced House Resolution 498 honoring the goals and ideals of School Bus Safety Week. We respectfully ask every Member of Congress to consider supporting this Resolution. The safety of our nation's children should be one of our nation's top concerns and only together can we continue to improve upon school transportation safety.