

A RESOLUTION recognizing all Kentucky school bus drivers for their service to the Commonwealth and its children.

WHEREAS, every day public school is in session, in darkness and daylight, bitter cold and brutal heat, and in rain, snow, or sunshine, Kentucky's school bus drivers travel on dirt roads and multi-lane highways to deliver the Commonwealth's school children to their places of learning and to their homes again on schedule; and

WHEREAS, the breadth and scope of that responsibility is great and the hours difficult; and

WHEREAS, the position of a school bus driver requires tremendous maturity and responsibility, with the ability to drive safely through traffic, regardless of the weather or road conditions, while maintaining the conduct of the children in his or her care and providing life-saving leadership in the event of emergencies; and

WHEREAS, America's 440,000 school buses comprise the largest mass transportation fleet in the country, more than two and a half times the size of all other forms of mass transportation combined; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky's school districts often encompass large geographic areas, necessitating extensive use of school buses to transport students; and

WHEREAS, each school day, approximately 675,000 public school students and their parents rely upon dependable school bus service, which a school district provides; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 11,000 licensed school bus drivers in the Commonwealth, operating more than 10,000 registered school buses that travel more than 115 million miles each year; and

WHEREAS, the National Traffic Highway Safety Administration has documented the far smaller number of accidents and fatalities per capita on school buses than in automobiles driven by either students or parents; and

WHEREAS, school bus drivers are an important component in overall student and

community safety by their knowledge of their neighborhoods and their ability to observe suspicious activity or people along their bus routes and communicate that information to the proper authorities; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky's school bus drivers are dedicated to performing their duties in a safe, courteous, and professional manner;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby recognize and declare our appreciation to all Kentucky school bus drivers for their dedication to the safety and well-being of the children of the Commonwealth, and for their selfless service in transporting the children to and from their schools every day.

➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Dr. Stephen Pruitt, Commissioner of Education, Kentucky Department of Education, Capital Plaza Tower, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; and to Ms. Heather Roth, Director of Transportation, Boone County Public Schools, 8330 United States Highway 42, Florence, Kentucky 41042.