



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, throughout the year, it is important to protect young children from aggressive drivers and preventable traffic injuries, and it is especially necessary to exercise caution during the school year when, each day, an estimated 50,000 motorists illegally pass stopped school buses in New York State; and

Whereas, New York State traffic data from 2002 through 2006 indicates that, among pedestrians age 19 and under, there were four deaths and 188 injuries caused by motorists who passed stopped school buses – and this dangerous issue is a major concern and focus of “Operation Safe Stop” – an education and enforcement program sponsored by New York State and its local government partners; and

Whereas, “Operation Safe Stop” helps inform motorists, school bus operators, law enforcement agencies, school administrators and the general public about dangers that children encounter as they approach and depart from school buses and school bus stops; and

Whereas, this program is a cooperative project supported by State entities – including the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee, the Departments of Motor Vehicles, Education and Transportation, the Division of State Police – and non-government groups, including the New York State Association of Pupil Transportation, the New York State School Bus Contractors Association, and state, county, city and local law enforcement agencies; and

Whereas, it is important to emphasize the need for motorists to show caution throughout the year when approaching school buses and other passenger buses, and to remind motorists that they should be prepared to stop on school grounds and on all roadways – including while driving on either side of a divided highway, whenever a school bus displays flashing yellow lights – and come to a *complete* stop whenever a bus displays flashing red lights; and

Whereas, it is fitting for every New Yorker to support this observance and to work toward its valuable goals by making a diligent effort to exercise safety and caution with regard to children and the school buses that carry them;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 2, 2008 as

OPERATION SAFE STOP DAY

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-fifth day of March the year two thousand eight.

David A. Paterson
Governor

[Signature]
Secretary to the Governor