

Mr. Gregory Jackson
12503 Grape Street
Thornton, Colorado 80241
March 9, 2022

Senator Rachel Zenzinger
State Capitol, Room 346
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Subject: AB 123, "Public and Nonprofit Entities Rideshare Contracts" by Senator Zenzinger

Dear Senate Transportation & Energy Committee Members:

As your constituent and a registered voter, I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 22-144. I have served as a school administrator and leader in the pupil transportation industry in Colorado for over 20 years. I am submitting my individual statement of support as a director of transportation because my school district's Board of Education has not taken any position on this bill to date.

Given my role, I feel that it is important to communicate how school district transportation departments set the standards for transportation network companies to ensure the safety of students and communities we serve daily. The Colorado Department of Education provides school districts with a minimum standard of operations that provide us a foundation to create policies and procedures that align with each individual districts' mission, which is often more stringent than CDE's standard, but not below its standard. School districts, when vetting transportation network companies through a request for proposal or request for qualifications process, require each company to meet specific qualifications. If the company does not meet these qualifications, it does not enter into a contract with the district.

Over the past few years, in what has been the worst national driver shortage in the history of this country, school districts have had no choice but to contract with transportation network companies to supplement daily route operations. Without passage of this important piece of legislation, school districts will face having to cancel other bus routes in order to provide service to students federally mandated to receive specialized transportation services under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act.

Transportation leaders should retain the right to choose the transportation network company that will meet their need to help transport students safely. As a school administrator and leader in the pupil transportation industry, I understand the importance of safety and education of students. This bill will provide school districts with the necessary means to ensure that students mandated to receive specialized transportation do without effecting the service of other students that parents rely on. Please vote in favor of Senate Bill 22-144.

Sincerely,

Gregory Jackson
Executive Director of Transportation & Fleet Services
Jefferson County Public Schools