



State of North Carolina
Department of Justice

Roy Cooper
Attorney General

P. O. Box 629
Raleigh, N.C. 27602

October 16, 2014

Dr. Peter Morris, Co-chair
NC Child Fatality Task Force
1390 Capital Boulevard
Raleigh, NC 27603

Ms. Karen McLeod, Co-chair
NC Child Fatality Task Force
2609 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 105
Raleigh, NC 27604

RE: Protecting North Carolinas' Children

Dear Dr. Morris and Ms. McLeod:

Every day thousands of drivers in North Carolina speed past stopped school buses endangering our children. In a one-day survey conducted at the beginning of this school year, school bus drivers reported 3,153 cars passing stopped school buses in our state, more than double the number of violators than in 2000. In recent weeks, North Carolina has seen numerous tragedies after motorists struck and killed or seriously injured children waiting for school buses.

These incidents are preventable. As you know from your past work on this issue, parents, educators and law enforcement work to hold violators accountable; but we can help even more by using technology to the fullest extent. The sheer number of buses and children make it impractical for law enforcement to catch every one.

Now states around the country are beginning to use state-of-the-art turn-key technology to better protect children. The system deploys stop-arm cameras on school buses to detect illegally passing vehicles. It works by photographing the vehicle's license plate and issuing a civil citation to the registered vehicle owner, similar to red light photo enforcement. States have found that this method improves student safety and acts as a deterrent to potentially deadly violations.

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I believe that if the North Child Fatality Task Force examines this technology and hears from stakeholders on how this technology is working in others states, you will conclude we should enact a law deploying this technology across North Carolina.

My office stands ready to work with you, the Legislature, the Governor and other partners on this child safety initiative. Please feel free to contact our legislative liaison, Christy Agner at (919) 716-6569. Thank you for your work on school bus safety and your continued dedication to protecting North Carolina's children.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RC Cooper", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Roy Cooper

RAC/sm

cc: Child Fatality Task Force Members