

Memorandum in Opposition

To: Members of the NYS Legislature
From: TWU Local 252
Re: A 837/ S 1347
Date: April 25, 2013

To the Members of the NYS Legislature:

My name is Juanita Samuels, I am the Vice President of TWU Local 252. We represent over 3500 hard working men and women in Nassau & Suffolk Counties. I thank you for the opportunity to address the committee today. Please be assured we respect your motivation and share your concern for the safety of our children. While we urge you to oppose Assembly Bill A 837 and Senate Bill S 1347, which mandates ignition interlock devices for school buses manufactured after July 1, 2015; authorizes school boards to determine the specifics of retrofitting school buses manufactured prior to such date; permits school boards to adopt policies requiring installation and use of such devices; provides state aid for expenses incurred for such devices. We believe that the State must and should take measures to eliminate the threat or impaired driving.

The bills in question at today's hearing do not solve the problem of impaired driving, treats good hard working drivers as criminals, forcing them to submit to a breathalyzer at a minimum 4 times per day often in-front of children, and will cost the taxpayers of the state in excess of \$60million per year to maintain.

The members of TWU Local 252 encourage you to adopt the following rules to combat Impaired Driving:

- a. Increase random alcohol testing rates from 10% to 25%.
- b. Require all vehicles to park on company property at night (stop take home vans, where drivers can behave badly before work).
- c. Set a state minimum wage for bus drivers at the regional poverty level (State living wage).
- d. Fix the school bus CDL law to require all school bus drivers to have the "S" endorsement. (not currently required for vans under 10,000 lbs)
- e. Bring the NYSDOT – PTSB transit regulations into the school bus industry. Including the requirement of a SSP (system safety plan) that must be filed with the state and is subject to review every 3 yrs.

f. Add \$25 to every bus registration to fund a program whereby the SSP and the current nysdmv driver files are audited once a year – there is much regulation that is supported by paper work that is required to be kept on company property, but goes mostly unchecked and can be easily fabricated.

Thank you for your consideration I look forward to working with you to make these common sense changes.