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TO: NEW YORK STATE TRANSPORTATION

FROM: NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL DRIVING SCHOOLS

SUBJECT: BUDGET TESTIMONY

The New York State Association of Professional Driving Schools (NYSAPDS) advocates for its members, who encompass hundreds of professionals dedicated to the education and safety of New York State drivers of all types of vehicles.

As part of Governor Hochul's Executive Budget proposal, Part O of the state transportation, economic development and environmental conservation budget bill S.8008/A.9008 would extend the accident prevention course internet technology pilot program (IPIRP) for two years, until 2024. The NYSAPDS acknowledges the necessity of extending the online version of the PIRP course providing that this legislation also incorporates the live distance learning version of that course, as well as the distance learning version of the Pre-Licensing course, into the statute. In addition, NYSAPDS would like the live distance learning courses to be made permanent. Currently, the live distance learning is authorized by state regulation and is not specified in the statute.

Being able to take any course via distance learning technology has become integral to the traffic & safety education process for New York Drivers. They should not be limited to the choice of 'click through' online programs and their lack of true interactive educational experience, and in-person courses with their logistical inconveniences. Distance learning versions of these courses is a successful marriage of these variants and demonstrates true progress by combining the convenience of easier access, with the superior educational impact of a "live", interactive course.

The NYSAPDS supports inclusive legislation that provides NYS drivers with a variety of educational choices in regards to the PIRP course, and any traffic & safety education courses.