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**Senator Sepúlveda Opposes Proposed Bill That Would Hurt Ride-share Drivers (Uber and Lyft)**

As a state senator representing the hardworking people of the 32nd district, I strongly oppose part (S. 4008-B, Part FFFF) of the language proposed in the transportation, economic development, and environmental conservation budget for the 2023-2024 state fiscal year. The language includes a new surcharge on Uber and Lyft drivers, who are ride-share drivers operators and cannot afford to bear more costs.

The proposed legislation enacts major components that are necessary to implement the state transportation, economic development, and environmental conservation budget. However, it also includes provisions that would hurt the very people who keep our economy moving - the drivers of ride-sharing services.

This bill would establish a tolls by mail system for the payment of tolls by electronic toll devices, and provide penalties for obscured license plates. It would also increase fees for traffic violations, notices of violations, and dismissal of violations. These fees and penalties would create an undue burden on ride-share drivers who are already struggling to make ends meet.

Additionally, the bill includes provisions related to the resolution of labor disputes, assaults on certain employees of transit agencies or authorities, and work zone safety awareness. While I support efforts to improve labor relations and protect workers, these measures should not come at the expense of ride-share drivers.

As a representative of my constituents, I believe that it is my duty to speak out against this bill and advocate for the interests of the people I serve. I will work tirelessly to ensure that any legislation passed in our state is fair and equitable for all, and does not disproportionately harm ride-share drivers and hardworking individuals.

I urge my fellow legislators to reconsider the provisions of this bill that would negatively impact our ride-sharing drivers. Let us work together to find a solution that supports all New Yorkers and keeps our economy moving forward.

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