



May 7, 2021

Senator Timothy Kennedy
Legislative Office Building, Room 708
198 State St
Albany, NY 12210

Assemblywoman Patricia Fahy
Legislative Office Building 452
198 State St
Albany, NY 12210

Dear Senator Kennedy and Assemblywoman Fahy,

The American Lung Association (ALA) is the oldest voluntary health organization in the United States. For more than 115 years, the ALA has been working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy, and research. The Lung Association works on behalf of the 37 million Americans living with lung diseases, including over 2.3 million patients with lung disease in New York.

The ALA writes to support S.5268/A.6754. As currently written, this legislation would provide for the reimbursement of certain costs borne on school districts when they purchase or lease electric school buses. We believe this legislation will improve the air quality and health for all New Yorkers, especially those living in disadvantaged communities that bear the brunt of air pollution.

This legislation will move New York closer to reaching emissions reduction goals set forth in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and help reduce dangerous co-pollutants in low and moderate-income communities especially those near highways, bus depots, and ports. The transportation sector, and buses in particular, accounts for nearly one-third of New York's greenhouse gas emissions, making it the largest emitter in the state.

We applaud the incentives included in these bills going to school districts that receive a higher proportion of state education aid. As a result, this legislation is geared to help school districts in low- and moderate-income communities the most, many of which have disproportionately higher levels of exposure to dangerous pollutants and may experience more incidence of premature death and elevated rates of respiratory disease such as asthma.

The American Lung Association urges swift passage of S.5268/A.6754 as we believe this bill provides New York with a unique opportunity to help reach its climate goals while supporting low- and moderate-income communities by cleaning up the air they breathe.

Respectfully,

Trevor Summerfield
American Lung Association
Director, Advocacy | NY, MA, VT