



July 19, 2022

The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support AB 2731 (Ting): Zero-Emission School Buses

Dear Chair Portantino and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the undersigned public health organizations, we write to express our support for Assembly Bill 2731 (AB 2731, Ting), which would require all new public school buses in California to be zero-emission after 2035. This bill also extends the lease term for contracted electric school buses to 15 years to optimize long-term savings for schools.

Currently, over 90 percent of Californians live in communities impacted by unhealthy levels of ozone and/or particle pollution. In fact, the American Lung Association's State of the Air 2022 report found that California is home to six of the ten most ozone-polluted cities in the United States and eight of the ten most impacted by particle pollution. Children are particularly vulnerable and are at greater risk to diesel exhaust as school bus passengers or as students attending schools served by combustion buses. Exposure to diesel emissions can put students at risk "to serious health conditions like asthma and respiratory illnesses and can worsen existing heart and lung disease, especially in children... These conditions can result in increased numbers of emergency room visits, hospital admissions, absences from work and school..." according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

AB 2731 would require new school buses to be zero-emission commencing in 2035 at local education agencies (school districts, county offices of education or charter schools) to ensure children across the state can breathe easier. AB 2731 provides a clear timeline for full school bus electrification will ensure school districts participate in the benefits of zero-emission transportation as California pursues all avenues to reduce emissions. This decision will not only reduce emissions but also provide vital health benefits to children and communities utilizing electric school buses.

In fact, the American Lung Association's Zeroing in on Healthy Air report found that the transition to zero-emission school buses within the broader transportation and electricity sectors could generate \$169 billion public health benefits between 2020 and 2050 in California, avoiding over 15,000 premature

deaths and 440,000 asthma attacks among children. In addition to the state funds that have been available for school bus electrification. Soon, federal dollars from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will be available through the Environmental Protection Agency to provide competitive grants for electric school buses.

This bill will strengthen California's leadership to transition to zero-emission school buses and reduce exposure to emissions to our vulnerable population, California children. For these reasons, our organizations support AB 2731. Please contact Will Barrett at William.Barrett@Lung.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

Will Barrett
Senior Director, Clean Air Advocacy
American Lung Association

Barb Sattler, RN, DrPH
Leadership Council
California Nurses for Environmental Health and Justice

Linda Rudolph, MD, MPH
Director
Center for Climate Change and Health

Kevin Hamilton, RRT, ACS
CEO
Central California Asthma Collaborative

Bob Gould, MD
President
Physicians for Social Responsibility – SF Bay Chapter

Matthew Marsom
Senior Vice President for Program and Public Policy
Public Health Institute

Joel Ervice
Associate Director
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (RAMP)