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The South Carolina Education Association Calls for Override of Governor McMaster's Veto of School Bus Funding

The unified membership of The South Carolina Education Association, which includes school bus drivers, calls for immediate override of the veto of funding intended to procure new busses throughout South Carolina.

COLUMBIA, SC – The South Carolina Education Association (The SCEA) expresses their concern over Governor Henry McMaster's recent veto cutting \$20.5 million out of the allocated \$28.9 million intended to purchase or lease an estimated 414 new school busses. The SCEA, whose membership includes South Carolina school bus drivers, calls for the immediate override of this short-sided veto which would impact the safety of our children everyday.

South Carolina's fleet of school busses has more than 1500 buses over 20 years old, and our state routinely purchases busses from neighboring states as they are retired and replaced. Our school bus drivers are dedicated professionals with a commitment of ensuring South Carolina children are safely transported to and from school, and who equally deserve to work with the safest and most reliable equipment necessary to do their jobs.

"With this veto of crucial funding to replace our aging and increasingly debilitated fleet of school busses, Governor McMaster indicates a lack of understanding of the critical support services our public education system needs," said The SCEA President Bernadette R. Hampton. "It should be evident that a child cannot fully benefit from what is taught in a classroom if they cannot safely get to that classroom. For many of our students, in both rural and urban areas, the school bus is their only reliable pathway to education, and the school bus driver is the first face they see each morning on their journey to learning."

The South Carolina Education Association urges everyone to immediately contact their local legislators to request an override of this veto and ensure our children will have reliable and safe means of transportation to our public schools.

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