

## **Peterson introduces legislation recognizing school bus safety, bus drivers**

Congressman Collin C. Peterson, D-Minn., recently introduced legislation - H RES 798 - designating the third week in October as National School Bus Safety Week. Additionally, the bill designates Wednesday of that week as National School Bus Drivers Appreciation Day.

Peterson made the following statement.

“School bus drivers have a tremendous responsibility transporting our children to and from school, sporting events, field trips and many other activities. For many children they start and finish their day on the school bus so it's important to honor those people that have such an important impact on our children's daily lives. Not only do they get our children to school in a safe and efficient manner they also get our children home safe.

“Providing transportation is essential to ensuring that children and families have equal access to basic education. Taking the school bus decreases truancy and increases the likelihood of children doing well in school. If half the battle is showing up, then school buses are helping us win that battle. School buses provide an estimated 10 billion student trips every year. Every school day, more than 480,000 school buses transport 25 million children to and from schools and school-related activities; over half of the country's student population is transported by school bus. School bus transportation has proven to be a safe mode of travel for students to and from school. According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration American students are nearly eight times safer riding in a school bus than with their own parents and guardians in cars. School bus safety does not start or end with the drivers, there is a vast system that is responsible for children's safety including dispatchers, managers, trainers, mechanics, and monitors.

“I also want to recognize the dispatchers, managers, trainers, mechanics and monitors that all contribute to students' bus riding experience. These are tough jobs that often times go unnoticed. It is important to recognize them for their dedication and devotion to our children and keeping them safe.”

National School Bus Safety Week and National School Bus Drivers Appreciation Day will promote efforts to provide schools with positive and safe learning climates. Peterson's bill is supported by Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Minnesota State Patrol, Association of Minnesota Counties, Minnesota Association of School Administrators, Minnesota School District 206, Douglas County and Minnesota Association for Pupil Transportation to name a few.