**TEMPLATE LETTER OF SUPPORT**

[If you have any questions, please contact (916) 441-3909 or nchavez@strategicadvocates.com]

Please fill out the letter below with your organizations information. Please do not hesitate to rewrite paragraph four or any piece of the letter with information on what an increase in transportation funding would mean for your organization [School district] and more importantly the students you transport.

April XX, 2019

The Honorable Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell

Chair, Assembly Committee on Education

1020 N St. Rm 159

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support AB 760

ORGANIZATION is in support of AB 760 [Cooper] which provides a COLA and Equalization adjustment to the allocation school districts receive from the Home-to-School Transportation Add-on in the Local Control Funding Formula[LCFF].

Under current law, the School Transportation Program is one of two programs which remain outside the LCFF. The school transportation allocation has remained stagnate for over 30 years. The amount districts received in the 1980s is similar to today. As a result of enrolment growth, many districts’ transportation costs have significantly outgrown the state allocation.

With school transportation funding frozen at 1980s levels, most districts rely heavily on their general fund to cover transportation services– last available data estimates over $1 billion of school district general fund dollars are annually spent to cover transportation costs.

AB 760 ensure that resources are provided to offset the cost increases which result from fuel costs, repairs, maintenance, retrofits, bus replacement, safety, software technology, personnel, and enrollment growth.

This bill is an important step in ensuring districts receive a minimum and equitable funding level for school transportation costs.

We respectfully request your support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

SIGNATURE

NAME

TITLE

CC: Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Education

Tanya Lieberman, Chief Consultant to the Assembly Committee on Education

Robert Becker, Consultant to Assembly Committee on Education