

BY: Senator PERSAUD

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
May 2026, as Youth on Transportation Safety Month in
the State of New York

WHEREAS, The safety, well-being, and empowerment of youth is a matter of the highest concern for the people of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Each day, young people across New York travel to and from school, work, and extracurricular activities using various forms of transportation, including school buses, public transit systems, rideshares, and intercity buses, placing them in regular contact with a broad array of transportation stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, Youth on Transportation Safety Month is a campaign dedicated to raising awareness about human trafficking and equipping youth, parents, and transportation professionals with knowledge and tools to identify and prevent exploitation in age-appropriate and effective ways; and

WHEREAS, This annual campaign, led by Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT), reflects the year-round objectives of its Youth on Transportation Initiative, which include expanding human trafficking training for school transportation and public transit professionals, convening public and private stakeholders to create collaborative community responses, and providing youth and parents with educational resources to protect themselves and others from trafficking; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Outreach Survey for Transportation, 60 percent of human trafficking survivors reported that a bus—such as an intercity, public, long-distance, or shuttle bus—was used during their recruitment into trafficking, while 75 percent reported that a bus was used during their exploitation; additionally, 35 percent of survivors reported visiting a bus or subway station while being trafficked, and 28 percent used a bus during their escape; and

WHEREAS, A 2023-2024 survey of TAT's school transportation partners revealed that one in three transportation professionals suspected that a student on their bus was at risk of being groomed, trafficked, or abused, while one in four reported an incident of suspected abuse or trafficking; furthermore, 60 percent of respondents indicated that they had observed at least one of TAT's red flag indicators of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Transportation providers serve vulnerable populations at a disproportionate rate, with 60 percent of children from low-income families relying on school buses and low-income individuals, immigrants, and people of color more likely to rely on public transportation; these populations are at increased risk of trafficking due to systemic issues such as poverty, racism, food insecurity, and limited access to support

services; and

WHEREAS, Although individuals of all ages may fall victim to human trafficking, traffickers often target youth, perceiving them as inexperienced in relationships, more trusting, and easier to manipulate; youth with a history of trauma, disabilities, low self-esteem, court involvement, economic hardship, or housing insecurity may face additional risk; youth who engage in risky behavior, including online behavior, or who identify as LGBTQ+ may also be more susceptible to exploitation; and

WHEREAS, The Youth on Transportation campaign was developed through a year-long youth consultation process that included focus groups and surveys with middle school, high school, and college students; the findings demonstrated that while nearly half of the youth surveyed believed they knew a good amount about human trafficking, many continued to believe common myths, such as the idea that most traffickers use kidnapping tactics; and

WHEREAS, Young people primarily receive information about human trafficking through the internet, at school, or from their parents; social media and family discussions serve as primary channels for learning about the world around them, and both parents and youth benefit from targeted educational materials; and

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is not only a global or urban issue, but one that affects communities across New York State; raising awareness and dispelling myths about this crime are essential to prevention; traffickers do not always match stereotypical profiles and often employ manipulative grooming tactics, making education and community vigilance critical tools in protecting youth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 2026, as Youth on Transportation Safety Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York; and Truckers Against Trafficking.