

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Racing and Wagering
Committee
COMMITTEES
Aging
Children and Families
Local Governments
Tourism, Parks, Arts and
Sports Development

Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS Capitol Building, Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

October 21, 2021

Dear Governor Hochul,

We are writing today to request that you immediately sign into law Assembly Bill 6295-A, which would lower the age to be a commercial driver from 21 to 18 by establishing a commercial driver's license (CDL) Class A young adult training program.

In New York State and nationwide, we are facing a large shortage of truck drivers. Our entire economy relies on truck drivers transporting food, clothing, building materials, medicines, and every other good in our country. The American Trucking Association estimated that at the end of 2018 an additional 60,000 drivers were needed to meet the country's demand. This shortage existed well before the COVID-19 pandemic but has been drastically exacerbated by the global health crisis. We are now seeing the costly effects of not having enough commercial drivers, as every industry is facing supply chain issues, causing prices to rapidly increase.

Currently, 18- to 20-year-olds can obtain a CDL Class B license, however they cannot get a CDL Class A license, which allows drivers to operate tractor trailers and other large vehicles that exceed the Class B CDL. Lowering the minimum age for a CDL Class A will increase the pool of available adults to become truck drivers. The CDL Class A young adult training program, established in this legislation, would enable 18- to 20-year-olds to become truck drivers, while following enhanced training measures and stringent guidelines.

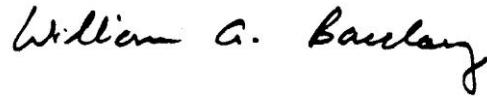
While other fields can recruit workers as soon as they turn 18, the trucking industry is at a clear disadvantage when the minimum age for drivers is 21, an age by which many adults have already settled into their chosen field of work. We are under no assumptions that this bill alone would fix the shortage overnight. However, we believe that we must be taking a multifaceted, collaborative approach to assist in increasing the number of commercial drivers in New York, and part of the solution would be signing this bill into law.

For all of these reasons, we are asking you to immediately sign Assembly Bill 6295-A so we can work to lessen the truck driver shortage.

Sincerely,



Jeff Gallahan
Member of Assembly
131st District



William Barclay
Assembly Minority Leader
120th District



Jodi A. Giglio
Member of Assembly
2nd District



Michael Montesano
Member of Assembly
15th District



Joseph P. DeStefano
Member of Assembly
3rd District



John Mikulin
Member of Assembly
17th District



Michael Durso
Member of Assembly
9th District



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Member of Assembly
19th District



David McDonough
Member of Assembly
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Karl A. Brabenec
Member of Assembly
98th District



John Lemondes
Member of Assembly
126th District



Chris Tague
Member of Assembly
102nd District



Brian Manktelow
Member of Assembly
130th District



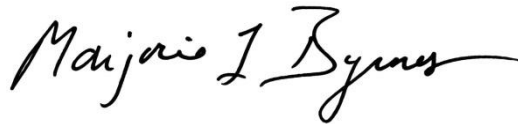
Matthew Simpson
Member of Assembly
114th District



Philip A. Palmesano
Member of Assembly
132nd District



Mark Walczyk
Member of Assembly
116th District



Marjorie Byrnes
Member of Assembly
133rd District



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Joseph G. Angelino
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Michael Norris
Member of Assembly
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Joseph M. Giglio

Joseph M. Giglio
Member of Assembly
148th District