



## **VOTE NO**

### **HB 3377 – Rep. Lang 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading in the House SB 1431 – Sen. Sandoval Senate Transportation Committee**

Both bills require school buses manufactured after the effective date to have 3-point seat belts and a rooftop safety hatch.

- School buses are already the safest mode of transportation in the country.
- There is no funding included in these bills to help districts cover these significant additional costs.
- The additional cost for 3-point seat belts on a full-size school bus ranges from \$7,000 to \$18,000.
- 3-point seat belts may reduce the capacity of school buses by up to 1/3, so a small district that has nine buses would need an additional 3 buses to transport the same number of students.
- A National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) report concluded that requiring lap belts on large, new school buses would appear to have little, if any, benefit in reducing serious-to-fatal injuries in severe frontal crashes. The use of combination lap/shoulder belts, if used properly, could provide some benefit on both large and small school buses. Lap/shoulder belts can be misused if children put the shoulder portion behind them. NHTSA's testing showed that serious neck injury and perhaps abdominal injury could result when lap/shoulder belts are misused.
- To ensure proper seat belt use, school districts likely will need to hire new personnel to be seat belt monitors on school buses.

These costs would fall at a time when the State is not paying its transportation reimbursement to school districts.

**Please call your State Representative to urge a NO vote on HB 3377!**

**Please call your State Senator to urge a NO vote on SB 1431!**