

# SB22-085 by CSN receives unanimous yes votes from the Colorado Senate & The House Education Committee.

*Colorado prepares to become the leader in student and school bus safety nationwide by collaborating with the Child Safety Network (CSN).*

DENVER, COLORADO, USA, May 5, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Child Safety Network's (CSN) Safe Student Protect Program received back-to-back unanimous yes votes from the Colorado State Senate & The House of Representatives Education Committee.

The bill title was symbolically renamed Anna & Makayla's Law to honor just two of the 11-year-old girls that lost their lives in unrelated school bus tragedies. Those tragedies could have been prevented along with thousands more had CSN's proposed technology and training been enacted in a timely fashion.



Rep Marc Catlin, Chair of Education Barbara McLachlan, Chair of CSN Ward Leber after unanimous win in House Education Committee

[Watch as Anna's mother is interviewed: https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/693540912](https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/693540912)

Once the bill is through the Appropriations Committee a House floor vote occurs where SB22-085 can finally become a law. One aspect that CSN absolutely requires as facilitators of state funds is total transparency of the use of all state funds.

Near the end of the session in 2019 an amendment was voted on to provide \$5 million dollars from a \$100 million Transportation Bill. The requested amendment received unanimous consent by the Senate. Then, it was killed by the House and little Anna's life was held in the balance along with thousands of other casualties that could have been prevented if the legislature acted more

quickly.

Ward Leber, Founder & Chairman of CSN, the 33-year-old national leader in providing lifesaving resources for children and youth Pre-K to 12 grades had this to say about the three-year delay: "It's easy to see that many Colorado Lawmakers were sincere about making that amendment stick and saving lives, none fought harder than Jerry Sonnenberg, Rachel Zenzinger and Don Coram".

[Watch the vote on "Adherence" exactly three years ago: https://vimeo.com/690528015](https://vimeo.com/690528015)

With just four days left in the 2022 legislative session, and after several attempts along the way to fund the total \$5.5 million year-one budget, Colorado has proven that it is ready to become the nation's leader in school bus and student safety. Now once again, its all up to the House of Representatives. The estimated cost of the three-year program to protect approximately 980,000 Colorado students, 365,000 that ride 8,000 school buses, and provide parenting and public safety resources to all two million parents (over three years), will exceed \$45 million.

“

For Child Safety Network, making the world a safer place for children to live is what we love most. We are about to learn if Colorado shares that priority.”

*Ward Leber, Founder of CSN*

**SENATE SPONSORS**

- Senator **Don Coram**, Transportation
- Senator **Rachel Zenzinger**, Chair of Education
- Rep. **Barbara McLachlan**, Chair of Education

**HOUSE SPONSORS**

- Transportation

**PROGRAM FACILITATORS**

- Ward Leber**, Lead Program Facilitator, Public Safety Expert, Life-Long Child Advocate, Founder & Chair of CSN
- Otha Thornton, Jr.**, School / Parent Coordinator, Past National PTA President, Fmr. White House Communications under Pres. Bush & Obama
- Tony Chapa**, School Safety & Security, Fmr. Assistant Dir. of Secret Service
- Bill Arrington**, School Bus Security, Nationally responsible for all surface transportation security for DHS/TSA
- David Hartzell**, President of the Colorado State Pupil Transportation Association
- Detective Daniel Sperry**, Stop Arm Campaign Director, 11-year-old daughter Makayla killed by Stop Arm runner
- Jeff Cassell**, School Bus Accident Reduction Safety Manager for over 38,000 school buses. #1 Safety Trainer in the US
- Greg Jackson**, Transportation Oversight, Voted #1 Transportation Director in America (Jeffco)
- Stephen Tako**, Anti Bullying SME, Content Provider for K-12, No Bullies On Board Programs
- Frank Tyneski**, App Product Design & Experience, Top 10 Global Product Designer, 100+ Patents
- Stephanie Duckworth**, Grant Support Coordinator, Professor & Dir. Princeton & Rutgers, Native American Author & Teacher
- Michael Lloyd**, App Content Edutainment, Entertainment Industry Icon, Produced over 100 Gold & Platinum records, Celebrity Liaison for Colo Campaign
- Leandra Backner**, Anna's Mother, Project Oversight
- Brandon Backner**, Anna's Father, Project Oversight

Ann's Law Colorado SB22-085 Is the most comprehensive school and student safety bill ever introduced

CSN did not ask for \$45 million (a tiny percent of the state's massive budget surplus). Instead, it only asked only for 12.5% of that amount and plans to obtain the other 87.5% from school board approved sponsors procured by CSN.

However, it should be noted that before the Senate send the bill to the house, it voted to provide \$5 million on April 6th. Then, when the media and Anna's grieving mother had left the capital, they once again defunded the bill back down to zero dollars.

CSN has been supporting Colorado's school bus safety and security out of their own pocket for three years and it is able to provide the nation's top experts to facilitate and implement the law. If this bill was given the requested \$13.5M (over three years) that would cost only three cents per student per day. The state has spend over \$100 million on school safety and security, but CSN is unaware of any funding for school bus safety & security, certainly not like this.

"Students are at greatest risk of being injured or killed when they are on their way to or from school. Why in the world have the needs of making the school buses harder targets with better drivers and technology been ignored by Colorado for so many years?" Asked Bill Arrington, one of the nation's most experienced transportations security experts.

Not only does the state ignore the needs of the transportation departments, before sending the bill by unanimous consent to the House, the Senate leadership took away 40% of any already tiny budget request. We realize that the state needs to keep the money in the classroom, but getting students there and back safely comes first.

Watch this program video to learn why the bill costs the state "zero dollars" over time as it saves more than it costs:

<https://vimeo.com/681065965>

During the three-year pilot program, SB22-085 / Anna & Makayla's Law will:

1. Work to reduce the 360 school bus accidents that Colorado averages each year by 50%
2. Create public awareness to reduce approximately 200,000 illegal "stop-arm" runners by 60%.  
\*These motorists refuse to stop for the school bus when the red lights are flashing, the stop arm is deployed and the kids getting on or off the bus (which is how students like Makayla lost their lives).
3. Dramatically reduce on-board and on-campus bullying as well as youth violence prevention.
4. Provide urgently needed advanced school bus driver training, screening, and recruitment.
5. Lower the average diesel school bus emissions by 20% until school bus fleets can be converted to zero emissions in the future. That will reduce carbon emissions by 1.2 pounds per mile!
6. Help parents steer clear of known public safety hazards; and over-time receive safe routes away from the dangerous locations where they may already find themselves (like wildfires).
7. Install a silent alarm that will expedite first responders to the school bus's location when the children's bus is in distress due accident, weather, mechanical failure, or on-board incident.
8. Provide a secure resource-rich parenting app filled with daily (free) age-appropriate news, information, and resources to help parents raise safer, healthier children (both mentally and physically healthier) in an ever more dangerous world.
9. For parents whose kids ride the bus, the app will provide them with arrival times, delays and

**Anna & Makayla's Law**

**SAFE STUDENT PROTECTION PROGRAM**

**Parental Notification & Student Safety App**  
Parents receive secure notifications of school bus arrivals or delays. All 2M parents receive free expert age-appropriate resources to raise safer, healthier students (both mentally & physically healthier). New tech helps avoid known public safety hazards and find safe routes away from danger.

**Statewide Anti-Stop Arm Runner Campaign**  
Motorists illegally pass our school buses more than **200,000 times** per school year placing our students in harms way.

**Fewer Accidents, Injuries & Lawsuits**  
Colorado averages two (2) school bus accidents per day; over **350** per year. Proven technology and advanced driver training reduces accidents by as much as 50%. Driver Background Checks & Security Training are a must.

**Faster Response Times Saves Lives**  
Silent Alarm & Crash Detection alerts first responders to the exact location of the bus. FDIC Insured Banks have silent alarms, but not our school buses. It's time to change that oversight.

**Help Solve The School Bus Driver Shortage**  
The School Bus Driver shortage was at crisis levels (nationwide) before Covid. 80% of all Colorado School Districts asked for help in 2019. New strategies will attract new drivers.

**Less Pollution for Colorado & Students**  
Smart technology reduces emissions and thereby toxic exposure to students & staff. Especially important during a pandemic that attacks the respiratory system.

**Reduce On-Board Bullying**  
375,000 Colorado students ride the bus. None should be afraid to use the safest form of transportation. The "No-Bullies On Board" campaign will reduce the number of incidences currently averaging **195,000** per year.

**Corporate Sponsors Increase Grant Funds**  
The Safe Student Protection Act is designed to provide incentives for school board approved corporate sponsors to add funding to the program.

SPONSORS WELCOME

CONTACT: 800-906-6901 ext.10

**csn.org**

Just a few on the many benefits that Coloradans will enjoy during the new school year

communication with the school which finally gives parents peace of mind and eliminating the flood of calls to the school's understaffed transportation department.

10. Utilize CSN's 30 years of experience developing corporate sponsors to pay for the cost for expanding and maintaining the program by allowing school board approved sponsors to be recognized in the app and on the school bus.

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/693540912>. Here is the story after the \$5.5 was taken away and the bill was dying in appropriations

<https://vimeo.com/704430466positive>

WARD LEBER

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