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4th Grade

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Topic:

What are some laws that keep children and adults safe on the way to and from school riding in automobiles, buses, motorcycles or on bicycles, including laws close to schools? How are these laws important? How can we better enforce these laws and encourage everyone to participate, including at home and while at school?

There are many laws in Texas that are intended to keep children safe on their way to school and on their way home from school. There are many different ways students go to school. Some of those different ways children go to and from school are: bicycles, motorcycles, cars, trucks, and school buses. Sometimes parents allow other people to take their children to school using some of those modes of transportation.

The mode of transportation I have chosen to write about is transporting students to and from school on a school bus and some of the laws that have been passed that help keep children safe while they are being transported to and from school on the bus.

One of the most important laws that has been passed to help keep kids safe while on a school bus is the law that other motorists driving in either direction must stop when the school bus stops. In Texas, the law reads, "if you approach a school bus from either direction and the bus is displaying alternately flashing red lights, you must stop. Do not pass the school bus until the school bus has resumed motion, or you are signaled by the driver to proceed, or the red lights are no longer flashing. It isn't necessary to stop when passing a school bus on a different road or

when on a controlled access highway where bus is stopped in a loading zone and pedestrians aren't permitted to cross."

The reason I have chosen this mode of transportation to write about is that I have seen other motorists drive passed the bus even though the lights are flashing. This is very dangerous for students because they can't always see who is driving by and many times students think everyone will stop, but they do not always stop. My parents showed me some articles and I read some articles that show how students have been struck by motorists and they have been badly injured and even tragically killed because someone was in a hurry and decided they were not going to stop. I would be very saddened to hear about any of my friends or classmates being struck by a motorist that failed to stop. I too am one of those students that rides the bus home every day. I have to look both ways when I cross the street in front of the bus. My dad practices how to safely get off the bus and cross the street. He always reminds me that "safety first," is the best mind-set to think about when I am getting off the bus. And many times, when other motorists don't stop they are also speeding. This is very dangerous.

I am proposing that the City of Glenn Heights and other municipalities work hard to get laws passed the raise the violation up to \$2,500.00 for every car that does not stop when they are suppose to stop. And I think if one driver has more than one violation where they do not stop when the bus stops then they should face more penalties because kids are very important and we need to help everyone understand how serious it is to drive passed a stopped bus with flashing lights.

I hope my proposal is considered and I hope I win a gift card or another prize because I spend a lot of time working on this and I think this was a very important topic to write about. There are many other laws that I could have written about, like the importance of everyone

wearing their seatbelts at all times, especially infants and kids, but that would have been many more pages. I wanted to stay focused on one area that I think is very important and that is taking care of us kids when we are walking toward the school bus and when we are getting off the bus and walking across the street. We don't want to get hit and we don't want bad drivers getting away with breaking the law so easily.

Thanks.

Isabel Cordero