



April 20, 2022

The Honorable Carl Heastie
NYS Assembly Speaker
Room 932 LOB
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie:

As you know, the horrific limo crash in 2018 in Schoharie that took the lives of 20 people, including several of my constituents, has shown the urgent need for stronger oversight of the for-hire limousine industry and both houses of the legislature have taken steps to pass legislation to begin to address that.

One of bills we passed created the New York State Stretch Limousine Passenger Safety Task Force. The Task Force was supposed to have issued its report to the Governor and Legislature by November 1, 2021, but the previous Administration never implemented the panel and it did not meet until February 2022. Under the current law, the Task Force is set to expire on May 31st.

There is currently legislation, S.7563/A.8493A, that passed both houses of the legislature to extend the deadline for the New York State Stretch Limousine Passenger Safety Task Force to make its final report and recommendations to October 1, 2022 and extends the Task Force itself until May 31, 2023. The Assembly passed this extender on February 14th and the Senate filed suit on March 2nd and then returned the bill to your house to be sent to the Governor for her review and signing. We are also waiting for the state Inspector General to complete her report about possible state malfeasance regarding oversight of the limo company involved in the Schoharie crash.

We're entering prom season and the busy six-month period from May through October where many New Yorkers rent these type of stretch vehicles for weddings, concerts, graduations, or a day out with friends like what happened in Schoharie. It's critical that you send this bill to the Governor expeditiously for her review and signing before the Task Force is currently scheduled to expire next month so they can continue to do their job and issue a report and policy recommendations to the legislature and governor in case we need to take further action to protect the public.

We need to give the families of the 20 wonderful people who lost their lives in Schoharie some answers and we need to know what can be done to give people peace of mind in the future that they will be safe if they use these vehicles

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Tedisco".

Senator Jim Tedisco