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ANGELO SANTABARBARA
Assemblyman 111th District

February 24, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader, United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer,

I am writing to you today to express my concern regarding taxi and limousine safety and to urge you to pass legislation that will help improve the overall regulatory standard of this industry.

It has been more than two years since a deadly limousine crash in Schoharie claimed the lives of 20 people – our nation's deadliest transportation accident in nearly a decade. Unfortunately, we still need systemic change at the federal level that will help prevent future tragedies like this from occurring. In the state Legislature, we passed a 10-bill package of limousine safety legislation in 2020, including several laws that went into effect earlier this year:

- Require motor carriers to conduct pre-employment and random and alcohol screenings (Ch. 2 of 2020);
- Increase penalties for illegal U-turn violations committed by stretch limousine drivers (Ch. 4 of 2020);
- Require the state Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to establish and publicize a toll-free hotline that allows individuals to report safety issues regarding stretch limousine vehicles or drivers (Ch. 5 of 2020);
- Require drivers of stretch limousines with seating capacities of nine or more passengers including the driver to hold a commercial driver's license with a passenger endorsement – a license class that mandates more driver training and regular vehicle inspections – and that stretch limousines comply with DOT safety regulations (Ch. 6 of 2020); and
- Authorize the Department of Transportation to impound or immobilize stretch limousines that are non-compliant (Ch. 9 of 2020).

Members of New York's Congressional delegation have worked to develop and propose legislation to improve limousine safety nationwide, such as the Take Unsafe Limos off the Road Act, the End the Limo Loophole Act and the SAFE Limos Act. These laws would create grants to help immobilize unsafe limos, implement commonsense safety measures and ensure that owners comply with commercial motor regulations. It's critical that we act at the federal level to guarantee this standard for all Americans.

I am urging Congress to draft and pass legislation that reflects New York's commitment to safety and sets robust standards for the taxi and limousine industry to protect passengers and motorists.

Sincerely,



Angelo Santabarbara

Member of the New York State Assembly
111th District, Representing areas of Albany, Montgomery & Schenectady Counties

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