

Senate Resolution 509

By: Senators Parent of the 42nd, Henson of the 41st, Robertson of the 29th, Payne of the 54th, Williams of the 39th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Congress to pass the Transit Worker and Pedestrian Protection Act
2 and the Secretary of Transportation to issue rules to address protection of public
3 transportation operators from the risk of assault; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Transit Worker and Pedestrian Protection Act, HR 1139, was introduced in
5 Congress to increase protections for transit operators against physical and verbal assaults;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, public transportation workers are vital to the safe, efficient, and affordable
8 movement of people and to the economic prosperity of the country; and

9 WHEREAS, assaults on public transportation workers are a growing problem, with daily
10 reports of bus operators and rail transit employees being beaten, having items thrown at
11 them, being spat upon, and being verbally abused; and

12 WHEREAS, these affronts are a tragic situation for public transportation workers and pose
13 major safety risks for passengers, other motorists, and pedestrians; and

14 WHEREAS, an additional risk to safe bus operation is the existence of blind spots in the
15 view from a bus operator workstation that prevent a driver from fully seeing his or her
16 surroundings and which have caused serious accidents with pedestrians; and

17 WHEREAS, blind spots are avoidable, and buses can be designed in a way to provide the bus
18 operator a clear view outside the vehicle; and

19 WHEREAS, Section 3022 of the FAST Act (49 U.S.C. §5329) requires the Secretary of
20 Transportation to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to address protection of public
21 transportation operators from the risk of assault; and

22 WHEREAS, the Secretary of Transportation has failed to issue a notice of proposed
23 rulemaking as required under Section 3022 of the FAST Act.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
25 urge the United States Congress to pass the Transit Worker and Pedestrian Protection Act
26 and the Secretary of Transportation to issue rules to address protection of public
27 transportation operators from the risk of assault.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
29 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the members of the
30 Georgia congressional delegation and the Secretary of Transportation.