



MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

S.4108-C (Seward)

AN ACT to amend the insurance law, in relation to transportation network companies

The Capital Region Chamber, representing 2,600 businesses and organizations from throughout the Capital Region that employ more than 150,000 area residents, supports S.4108-C. This bill would clarify insurance provisions and requirements relative to transportation network companies.

The Chamber is extremely proud of the fact that the Capital Region continues to grow as a business and tourist hub. Unfortunately, reliable transportation options have not kept pace. Our region's current taxis do not provide a level of service that is reliable, courteous, and clean, nor do they maintain a regulated fare system. This is truly unfortunate given the fact that the region will soon host both the Albany Capital Center convention center and the Rivers Casino and Resort in Schenectady. This situation must be addressed if the region is to fully realize the economic benefits from these and future projects. The Chamber believes that ridesharing companies can improve our region's transportation options. Regrettably, current state law does not allow for ridesharing companies, like Uber and Lyft, to operate outside of New York City.

The Chamber believes that it is crucial that the Capital Region provide transportation options, such as Uber and Lyft, which are reliable, courteous, clean and convenient. While ridesharing is available in many other destinations throughout the country, New York State remains the only state in the nation with a legal barrier to peer to peer ridesharing. S.4108-C will address the onerous insurance requirements, the major impediment to ridesharing companies entering New York State. Passage of this legislation will allow the Capital Region to be competitive with these other markets by enhancing the region's transportation options.

For these stated reasons, the Capital Region Chamber recommends the passage of this legislation.

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