

Senate Bill S5959B, Sponsored by Lea Webb  
Assembly Bill A5718B, Sponsored by Anna Kelles

JUSTIFICATION:

Nonprofit carshares are community-focused, membership-based services that provide access to cars for local trips to people who can't or choose not to buy their own vehicle. While there are a few carshares in NYS right now, the opportunity exists to significantly expand this service and its many benefits. This includes improved access to mobility for low- to moderate-income people and reducing transportation emissions as it has similar emissions reduction effects as public transit.

However, due to a requirement that all insurers providing coverage in New York State be domiciled here, the state's only nonprofit carshares will soon be unable to secure required automobile insurance and will be forced to close their operations. This legislation explicitly allows risk retention groups registered in New York State under the Federal Liability Risk Retention Act of 1986, and which are insuring 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations exclusively, to be registered in and offer insurance coverage in New York State.

Email dated July 10, 2023, from Teresa Linde, on behalf of Fernando de Aragon, Staff Director, Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council

ITCTC partners-

As you know, the NY State Senate and Assembly passed the bill expanding access to auto insurance for NY non-profits (A.5718b/S.5959b). The bill now waits for the governor's signature to become law. Locally, this bill is critical for Ithaca Carshare to be able to resume operations. The legislation includes a six-month waiting period that doesn't go into effect until it is signed by the governor. In short, we need the governor's signature as soon as possible.

It is important to continue to advocate for the bill ensure it moves ahead in the legislative process. I write to ask you to consider sending a letter/email to the governor asking for quick action. Here is a letter template you can use to send to the governor and to share with any contacts who may also wish to write-

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-Dz0xhdTli\\_ydTpLzB-KtzS4DIhUrOB4mCLQzQT0r88/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-Dz0xhdTli_ydTpLzB-KtzS4DIhUrOB4mCLQzQT0r88/edit?usp=sharing)

This site also included addresses for the governor and her key staff working with this bill.

The contact website for the governor is - <https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form>

Thanks for your help.

**Fernando**

Fernando de Aragón  
Staff Director  
Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council  
121 E. Court St.  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
607-274-5570

Template: Letter to Governor Hochul to Sign A.5718/S.5959

It's helpful to send a physical letter, and then follow up with an email, but if you can only do email, that's okay.

To email governor Hochul, use the contact form on the her website:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form>

To send a physical letter:

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
New York State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Please also email a copy of the letter in PDF form to: [legislative.secretary@exec.ny.gov](mailto:legislative.secretary@exec.ny.gov)  
CC: Elizabeth Fine, Chief Counsel to the Governor ([Elizabeth.Fine@exec.ny.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Fine@exec.ny.gov))  
CC: Cherell Beddard, Assistant Counsel to the Governor ([cherell.beddard@exec.ny.gov](mailto:cherell.beddard@exec.ny.gov))  
Please also BCC: [liz@ithacacarshare.org](mailto:liz@ithacacarshare.org) & [jennifer@the-cct.org](mailto:jennifer@the-cct.org)

And if you want to mail a physical copy to Elizabeth Fine:

Elizabeth Fine, Chief Counsel to the Governor  
633 3rd Ave FL 37  
New York, New York 10017

DATE, 2023

SUBJECT: Please sign S.5959b/A.5718b immediately to save nonprofit auto insurance

Dear Governor Hochul,

I'm writing on behalf of [YOUR ORGANIZATION or MUNICIPALITY] to urge you to sign S.5959b/A.5718b into law as soon as possible. This bill solves an auto insurance market failure for nonprofits by allowing nonprofit organizations to obtain auto insurance from a nonprofit Risk Retention Group.

**With a 6-month waiting period built into the bill before it can go into effect, we urge you to sign it immediately.**

This bill will save Ithaca Carshare, allow the carshares in Albany and Rochester to move to a nonprofit model and expand their Electric Vehicle fleets, and **help all nonprofits across the state access much-needed auto insurance so they can better serve their communities.**

This bill will also allow Buffalo to relaunch their nonprofit carshare that closed in 2015 due to this auto insurance market failure.

Carshares are membership-based organizations providing 24/7 access to fleets of vehicles for members to drive whenever they need a car. Ithaca Carshare was the first carshare in New York State and opened in 2008. They initially received seed-funding from NYSERDA in 2006, but it took two years to open because they couldn't find auto insurance.

Carsharing greatly reduces traffic congestion and carbon emissions, and helps New York meet its climate action goals. NYSERDA has invested \$3 million so far in carshares across the state,

and has slated millions more in funding over the next few years to invest in Electric Vehicle carsharing across the state.

By signing this bill into law, you're helping *all* nonprofits across the state access much-needed auto insurance, you're saving carshares across the state, and you're giving all New Yorkers and the environment a win by supporting clean transportation alternatives to personal car ownership.

Please consider signing this bill immediately. Thank you for your timely consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

[Your Name, Title, etc]

ENCL.

CC:

Elizabeth Fine, Chief Counsel to the Governor

Cherell Beddard, Assistant Counsel to the Governor

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
New York State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

**URGENT: Please sign S.5959b/A.5718b immediately to save nonprofit auto insurance**

Dear Governor Hochul,

I am writing on behalf of the Town of Lansing to urge you to sign S.5959b/A.5718b into law as soon as possible. This bill solves an auto insurance market failure for nonprofits by allowing nonprofit organizations to obtain auto insurance from a nonprofit Risk Retention Group.

**With a 6-month waiting period built into the bill before it can go into effect, we urge you to sign it immediately.**

This bill will save Ithaca Carshare, allow the carshares in Albany and Rochester to move to a nonprofit model and expand their Electric Vehicle fleets, and **help all nonprofits across the state access much-needed auto insurance so they can better serve their communities.**

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By signing this bill into law, you are helping *all* nonprofits across the state access much-needed auto insurance, you are saving carshares across the state, and you are giving all New Yorkers and the environment a win by supporting clean transportation alternatives to personal car ownership.

Please consider signing this bill immediately. Thank you for your timely consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Edward J. LaVigne  
Town Supervisor  
Town of Lansing

CC:  
Elizabeth Fine, Chief Counsel to the Governor  
Cherell Beddard, Assistant Counsel to the Governor