

Submissions on Agenda Item LS20.5 and LS20.2

LS20.5.3

I am Rajinder Singh. On behalf of the Toronto taxi owners and drivers operating at the Pearson International Airport, I present this petition signed by them and ask this committee not to make Child Restraint Seats Mandatory in Taxis. At the airport we are mostly dealing with business men who usually travel with luggage only. Even now it becomes difficult to adjust the baggage. If providing child seat becomes the responsibility of the operator, then he or she will also be held responsible for anything in the future that goes wrong with the child seat. The operator has to store the child seat somewhere in the trunk or in the car. In the trunk it will reduce the space for luggage, and in the car it will reduce the space for the one passenger. Mandatory child seats may further lead to the amendment in the Taxi By Laws to reduce the number of passengers from four (4) to three (3). Every family with children mostly has child seats. It should remain the responsibility of the traveling public to carry their own child seats when they are using taxis. There are some taxi vans which have child seats. Customers can order these taxi vans if they needed one. Some health issues may also occur when the same child seat would be used by a different child. For more than one child the driver will be required to provide more child seats. Less room in the car or in the trunk will affect the customer service negatively. More over, Mandatory Child Restraint Seats will be extra financial burden to the taxi operators and is not in the best interests of the majority of the traveling public.

I further ask the committee that the vehicle brand Ontario registered only for the Toronto Licensed Taxicabs should be amended. Vehicles registered anywhere in North America (excluding salvaged and rebuilt) should be allowed to operate as taxicabs in Toronto. I also request that instead of two years, three year old vehicles be allowed for taxicabs in Toronto. It will improve the quality of the taxis when the car will stay on the road as a taxi for a lesser year. Thank you all.

Enclosures:

Rajinder Singh