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May 30, 2019

**Memorandum of Support**  
A.7980 (Rodriguez)/ S.6014 (Kennedy)

The Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU) supports A.7980/ S.6014 which would create a state automated vehicle task force with a goal of studying, evaluating, and developing recommendations relating to specific actionable measures.

CICU represents more than 100 private, not-for-profit colleges and universities in New York State who educate almost 500,000 students annually. Private, not-for-profit colleges and universities are economic engines in their communities generating \$88.8 billion in economic impact each year. Independent institutions are on the forefront on innovation with 76% (4.7 billion) of New York's R&D spending in higher education happening at private colleges and universities. CICU member institutions understand the importance of evolving technology and the impact it will have on public policy. That is why at Syracuse University they have created the Autonomous Systems Policy Institute. The Institute has a goal of advancing knowledge and teaching in the field of autonomous systems. At Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) they have made tremendous steps towards building future technologies with their Center for Automation Technologies and Systems. This Center was recently awarded a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) grant for a 3-year study of hydrogen gas fueling stations that can automatically connect to and refuel vehicles.

New York must use the considerable assets at its disposal to be at the forefront of innovation. For this reason, the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities supports this legislation and urges the legislature to pass it.