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## LETTERS TO THE TIMES

### California School Bus Debate Rolls On

Re "Bus Company Lobbies as State Spins Wheels Over Budget," July 19: Legislators should not preclude companies such as Laidlaw from bidding on provision of school bus services.

The purpose of school bus fleets is delivering kids to school, not transferring wealth from property tax-paying homeowners to bus drivers.

The principal reason that public transit agencies are constantly bankrupt is the high cost of union labor. Most agencies have no hope of recovering these unnecessary costs from the fare box, so management focuses on acquiring more tax revenues and not on fielding services that meet needs and attract riders.

Nonunion contract operators break this cycle. More contract operators means more transit service and more transit riders.

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