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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 3, 2023

Ithaca Carshare May be Forced to Close Waiting for Governor's Signature on Unanimous Bill

Ithaca, NY: Ithaca Carshare — New York's only nonprofit, membership-based carsharing service — which provided 24/7 access to 30 vehicles for over 1,500 members, **paused operations on May 19, and now faces permanent closure unless Governor Hochul immediately signs A.5718b/S.5959b.**

In June, the New York State legislature unanimously passed bill [A.5718b/S.05959b](#). This bill allows nonprofit organizations like Ithaca Carshare to get auto insurance from a nonprofit Risk Retention Group, as is allowed by federal law, solving a long-standing auto insurance market failure for nonprofits.

"We'll have to close down if Governor Hochul doesn't sign the bill as it is written now," says Jennifer Dotson, Executive Director of the Center for Community Transportation, of which Ithaca Carshare is a part. "We can't last much longer, as every day we lose much-needed revenue."

"The bill imposes a 6-month wait time before it goes into effect, so we implore the governor to sign it immediately," says Liz Field, Ithaca Carshare Director. "Every day that passes without her signature is another day our staff are furloughed and members who rely on carshare can't meet their transportation needs. We don't understand what the hold up is at this point."

Nonprofit carsharing helps Governor Hochul meet her stated climate and equity goals through:

- Reducing traffic congestion and carbon emissions. According to a Cornell study from 2013, each carshare vehicle replaces up to 15.3 vehicles on the road, easing burdens on transportation infrastructure and the associated costs.
- Providing access to private mobility options for people in low-income neighborhoods and offering grant-funded programs that enable low-income individuals to use the service.

Ithaca Carshare does not rely on public funds for its general operating budget. Membership and usage fees pay for the service, vehicles, fuel, insurance, repairs, and maintenance. Grants help pay for conversion to electric vehicles and supporting equitable access to carsharing.

In order to reduce carbon emissions in our state and equitably tackle climate change, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) has invested \$3 million so far in carsharing in New York, with millions more planned over the next two years to expand nonprofit carshares, but *none of this will be achieved and carshares will close down if they can't get auto insurance.*

For more information: ithacacarshare.org/insurance-updates/