



February 25, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman and Members
Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
Senate Office Building, Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS – SB 292 - County Boards of Education - Student Transportation - Sunset Repeal

Dear Chair Feldman Vice Chair Guyton and Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Committees:

The Maryland School Bus Contractors Association (MSBCA) supports with amendments HB 110 – Motor Vehicles – School Buses – Seat Belts. MSBCA serves as the voice of the private school bus companies that contract with local Maryland school systems in 20 of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions. MSBCA members own and operate over 3,600, or 50%, of the school buses transporting school children across the great State of Maryland. MSBCA contracted school buses routes travel over 58 million miles each year while remaining fully committed to the safety of the students we transport and considers it a privilege to do so.

MSBCA supports SB 292 with amendments submitted by Senator Bailey match amendments in the House with HB 319. However, MSBCA is concerned about the safety of the vehicles being used to transport our children. In many cases, our members have seen vehicles used to be prone to rollovers and do not have high accidents standards. We also ask that the amendment that asks for a review of this operation by MSDE and MDOT/MVA consider requiring the vehicle to be registered in the State of Maryland, same requirement asked of our school buses.

While we understand and support the need for these vehicles in very specific cases, especially in rural areas, we are concerned about the standard we meet every day being lowered to do so. Nothing is more important than the safety of all our children.

Again, MSBCA looks forward to working with all our legislators to make Maryland the safest and most efficient state in the country for all our children.

Sincerely,

Steve Nelson

Steve Nelson
President

Marty Lostrom

Martha "Marty" Lostrom
Executive Director