



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
HARFORD COUNTY DELEGATION

February 12, 2020

RE: **Senate Bill 755 – Education – Harford County – Liability of School Bus Contractors**

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

SB 755 is a local bill that pertains to liability insurance for Harford County School Bus Contractors. As County contractors they are currently insured through the County under the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) insurance pool. Several years ago, that coverage was reduced by the School Board from \$2 million to \$1 million coverage.

The contractors feel quite simply that \$1 million coverage is not adequate in this day and age. A number of them have been told by the school board that they need to purchase an additional contractor umbrella policy if they feel coverage beyond the \$1 million is necessary. However, many have tried to do so unsuccessfully. No one will provide this secondary coverage.

Additionally, liability for an accident that occurs on a school board-owned bus is capped at \$1 million, while an accident on a contractor-owned bus has no such cap. If a contractor bus and board bus were traveling together and both were involved in an accident, there is no limit on a contractor's liability. This puts the contractor at a major disadvantage. If they are providing similar services they should be afforded similar protections. To not be protected by a similar cap provision jeopardizes the entire operation of the contractor.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this proposed legislation.

J.B. Jennings
Senator J.B. Jennings
District 7

Bob Cassilly
Senator Bob Cassilly
District 34

Jason Gallion
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District 35