



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

March 3, 2020

To: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support of SB 562 - Public Schools - Flexible Instructional Days - Policy Requirements**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of SB 562, legislation that authorizes a county board of education to apply to the state board of education to implement a policy for the use of up to 5 flexible instructional days during the school year. The bill defines "flexible instructional day" as one in which a public school provides remote academic instruction because a natural or civil disaster or severe weather conditions prevented schools from opening.

For years, school systems have used the 180-day restriction to oppose starting school after Labor Day. This bill would allow a school system to address the snow day issue through flexible school days. Pennsylvania uses this practice in their school system.

Maryland Farm Bureau Policy:

- We encourage all local/county boards of education to develop a calendar that starts after Labor Day and ends no later than June 15th.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB 562

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396