



# TOWN OF OCEAN CITY

*The White Marlin Capital of the World*

February 20, 2020

Chairman Kaiser and Distinguished Members  
of the House Ways and Means Committee  
House Office Building, Room 131  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Kaiser and Distinguished Members of the House Ways and Means  
Committee:

I apologize that I am unable to attend today's hearing; however, I am writing in support of the Universal School Start Act of 2020. Over the last two years, Maryland has seen the great benefit a post-Labor Day school start has on families, students, teachers and the economy. Not only does our local economy experience the benefit of a universal school start date, but a study conducted by Salisbury University's Business Economic and Community Outreach Network found that an additional 12 days of summer adds up to \$115 million dollars to our State.

Further, Worcester County instituted the post-Labor Day start over five years ago (three years prior to the Governor's Executive Order) with much success. In fact, Worcester County boasts some of the highest test scores in the State. Criticism and opposition regarding local authority should also be dismissed, as there is an easy solution to this "problem." In Worcester County, we receive three calendar choices within the Labor Day to June 15 parameters. This gives local school boards, teachers and parents the opportunity to vote on one option each year.

Many students rely on additional summer income to pay for college tuitions, and teachers and school system employees rely on additional summer income to support their families. Starting school after Labor Day provides this opportunity.

Most importantly, the Universal School Start Act of 2020 allows families more time to enjoy the last few weeks of summer, while also providing small businesses a boost when they need it most. The Universal School Start Act of 2020 is a win for Maryland families and the economy.

Sincerely,

Rick Meehan  
Mayor

**MAYOR**  
RICHARD W. MEEHAN

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