



# Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

February 21, 2020

To: House Way & Means Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

## **Re: Support of HB 743 - Universal School Start Act of 2020**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 743, legislation that requires that local boards of education set the start date for school years after Labor Day. This bill also gives authority to the local board to grant a waiver to certain schools given good cause to have a different start date.

Many farming operations offer summer jobs to many youth in Maryland. The month of August is prime season for vegetable and fruit growers. Losing their help during this busy season makes it very difficult for farmers to harvest the crop from the field and prepare it for consumer use. By delaying the start of public school until after Labor Day, the youth will be able to continue to work their summer jobs and the farmer will continue to have assistance with harvest.

**Maryland Farm Bureau Policy:** We oppose a year-round and/or a staggered school year. 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 HB 743 AND ENCOURAGES A FAVORABLE REPORT.**

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*