

RE: HB 743 Universal School Start Act of 2020 - House Ways & Means

Position: Support

February 17, 2020

Dear Chairman & Committee

I am writing in support of schools starting after Labor Day each year, not before. I am in support of this act based on the 2 primary aspects of my life, first as a parent, second as part of my job as a Hotel GM in OCMD.

As a child, I grew up in Maryland and always will have very fond memories of returning from our annual family vacation with my parents and grandparents to the horror of seeing the firemen on the corners with their boots out looking for donations for the Jerry Lewis telethon. I knew when that happened, the next day we were back to school! It was our tradition to take our vacation that same week every year. As a hotelier with the largest company in OCMD, the Harrison Group, I talk to many families every year who have the same goal of celebrating that last weekend of the summer with a long beach weekend, crab feast or cookouts, time with friends and family one last time before the summer comes to an end. Why would we want to cut into this special family time cutting into summer vacations that we all grew up with.

It's time to recognize this opportunity to give summer back to families and allow kids to be kids and enjoy a full summer break, just as we did growing up. Allow families to create memories and cherish the time while they can.

Thank you,

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