

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF CAMPGROUNDS

Michael Gurevich
President



Deb Carter
Executive Director

www.mdcamping.com

DATE February 18, 2020
TO Maryland House Ways & Means Committee
FROM Deb Carter
RE HB 0743 Universal School Start Act of 2020

I am writing today, on behalf of my membership and myself, to offer our full support of HB 0743.

We believe there are numerous reasons to make this a state mandated law. The most obvious may be to help small business owners, often located in very rural areas of Maryland, with workforce issues.

Our campgrounds depend on a good summer season to survive the off-season time. We hire students for many tasks, from general maintenance, to certified life guards. When our employees have to go back to school, often ten to fourteen days before Labor Day, we are in dire straits. To conform to Maryland law, we must have lifeguards present when our swimming pools are open. Not only do our employees suffer, but of course our clients as well. Are economic reasons enough to make the change? We believe so.

But "money" aside, children seem forced to grow up far too quickly, to act older than their years. It's time to revalue childhood and protect it as the precious time it is. As a lifelong resident of our great state, my last two weeks of August were cherished time. Days full of sunshine things like fishing, swimming and day dreaming by the water. Fairs and carnivals and piles of steamed crabs. The long-anticipated trip to purchase my school supplies, especially my favorite #2 pencils. Those memories still make me smile. How about you?

We urge you to vote yes on HB 0743. Thank you for your time.

Deb Carter
Executive Director, Maryland Association of Campgrounds