

March 1, 2022

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary and Members Ways and Means Committee Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support – HB 652 – More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2022

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland School Bus Contractors Association (MSBCA) supports HB 652 – More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2022. MSBCA serves as the voice of the private school bus companies that contract with local Maryland school systems in 18 of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions to own and operate the nearly 3500 contracted school buses that transport schoolchildren across the State. MSBCA remains committed to the safety of the students they transport and considers it a privilege to do so.

As you well know, we are facing a severe school bus driver shortage, which has led to the suspension of bus services to schools across the State. Early training is key to helping to build up our driver pool and this bill will go a long way in ensuring such training is both available and promoted.

Once again, MSBCA supports HB 652 and asks for a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to our State.

Sincerely,

Steve Nelson

Steve Nelson, President 1 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401 410.268.3099