

Testimony for the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Monday, February 20th, 2023

**SB 491 – Charles County Board of Education - School Bus Contractor Employees -
Negotiations**

FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and committee members,

My name is Robert Thomas. I am a Charles County Bus Operator. I Drive Special Needs/ Handicap School Bus 338. I am in support of Senate Bill 0491. I believe Charles County Board of Education shall be considered as a joint employer of School Bus Contractor Employees. My personal experience with the Board of Education is not being able to discuss my benefits and wages with them directly. When I have issues or questions, I am told I need to speak with my employer. My employer is contracted through the Board of Education that has majority control over my benefits and wages. I believe this system has been put in place over 50 years and needs to be updated as labor laws and equal rights have changed.

Thank you,

Robert Thomas