



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

February 15, 2023

To: House Ways & Means Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support of HB 525 - Outdoor Preschool License Pilot Program - Establishment**

On behalf of our Farm Bureau member families in Maryland, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 525, legislation that establishes the Outdoor Preschool License Pilot Program in the State Department of Education to license outdoor, nature-based early learning and childcare programs. The purpose of the programs are to expand access to affordable, high-quality early learning and child-care programs and investigate the benefits of outdoor, nature-based classrooms.

MDFB Policy: We commend the Maryland Commission on Education in Agriculture for its study and report concerning the enhancement of agricultural education in the state. We support the Commission's recommendations to improve and enhance education in agricultural programs throughout Maryland, especially the improved agricultural curriculum in Grades Pre-K-12 and the recommendations for new and upgraded facilities. We encourage the continued efforts of the Governor to expand and improve agricultural curriculum in the Maryland public school system.

We support increased funding for Pre-K through 12th grade agricultural education programs.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 525 & REQUESTS A FAVORABLE REPORT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396