

March 20, 2023

Maryland Senate
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB 961

Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Judicial Proceedings Committee has long championed public safety legislation that has not only made Maryland's roads safer, but also saved numerous lives. Maryland continues to lead the nation in its use of innovative technology to deter reckless driving. SB 961 furthers this end.

One such initiative, the school bus stop arm camera program – adopted by numerous Maryland counties, including Prince George's, Carroll, Montgomery, Charles, Cecil, Queen Anne's, Harford, and others to make the ride to and from school safer for students riding the school bus – has seen laudable results. Across these programs, 98% of motorists held accountable for violating the school bus stopping law never repeat the offense again. Moreover, this program has particularly enhanced traffic safety concerning Maryland's most vulnerable students.

Parents, school officials, and Marylanders at-large recognize that school bus stop arm violations are particularly egregious. Drivers who endanger the life of a child by running past a stopped school bus ought to be held accountable for their reckless behavior. In numerous neighboring states, including Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York, law enforcement typically has 30 days to mail a citation upon inspection of school bus stop arm violation video footage. North Carolina even permits mailing within 60 days. **Maryland stands out by permitting only two weeks for citation mailing. At times, due to strained local resources or technical difficulties, some offenders can avoid accountability due to this restrictive statutory timeline technicality.**

SB 961 brings Maryland in line with standard best practices across the nation, by permitting a 30-day turnaround time for citation mailing. This way, those who endanger the lives of Maryland students cannot avoid accountability through a statutory loophole. As Maryland's top school bus stop arm service provider, we strongly urge your consideration and support for SB 961.

Sincerely,



Stephen Randazzo
Executive Vice President
BusPatrol America LLC