



## Maryland Farm Bureau

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**To:** Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**From:** Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

**RE:** **Support of SB1035 - Focusing Federal Career and Technical Education Act Funds on Blueprint School-to-Work Apprenticeship Goals Act**

On behalf of the member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I provide written testimony in favor of SB1035. This bill would require the State Board of Education to collaborate with the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee to develop and approve a certain plan to administer the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act beginning in fiscal year 2025.

Maryland Farm Bureau is extremely supportive of Agriculture Education programs within the state and hopes to see the programs continue to grow and flourish. The Future Farmers of America (FFA) also falls under the Agriculture Education programs in most schools that offer FFA as an intraarticular activity. Under the Blueprint, Agriculture Education and FFA would fall under the Career and Technical Education Committee. By implementing a start date and plan to administer the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act would give those programs the confirmation needed to continue moving forward.

MDFB Policy: We support the career technology education program in Maryland. We recommend that local boards of education, with state support, expand Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) approved agriculture education programs in middle schools and high schools. We strongly recommend that the State board of education institute a more comprehensive agriculture education program. We highly recommend MDFB have representation on boards and commissions at the Maryland State Department of Education, and the Department of Labor especially in Career & Technology Education. We support the Environmental, Agriculture & Natural Resources Pathway (Certified Agriculture Education Program). The program should include all three rings of the Agriculture Education model (classroom/laboratory instruction, FFA, and Supervised Agricultural Experiences) and be fully funded and staffed to ensure all local and state programs are viable.

**Maryland Farm Bureau Supports SB1035 and urges a Favorable Report**

Tyler Hough  
Director of Government Relations

*Please contact Tyler Hough, (443) 878-4045 with any questions*