



Re: HB356 School Bus Stops - Monitoring Cameras

Chairperson Korman and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

The Maryland Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT) is an organization comprised of pupil transportation leaders and professionals from each Local Education Agency (LEA). MAPT is where you will find the most knowledgeable individuals involved in transporting Maryland school students on school buses.

MAPT has concerns regarding HB356 School Bus Stops - Monitoring Cameras and Safety Measures, and opposes the legislation in its current iteration.

Student safety is at the top of the list for creating a successful educational environment. One key area of student safety is school bus stops. We ask that this committee and the Maryland Legislature maintain a direct and simple message regarding stopping for school buses in the process of picking up or dropping off students. That message is: If a school bus is stopped with its red loading lights activated, all vehicles must stop!

HB356 takes away from that direct and simple message. It adds confusion and ambiguity. We are concerned that the proposed change sends the wrong message to motorists, students, and families that it is acceptable for vehicles to pass a stopped school bus whose red loading lights are activated.

Thank you for your time in reading the concerns from pupil transportation professionals regarding HB356 and we ask for an Unfavorable Report from the committee. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on this topic or any school bus related item. You can reach me at (301) 475 4256 ext. 34132 or by email at jkthompson@smcps.org.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Thompson
President

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