



March 6, 2024

Re: SB406 School Bus Stops

Chairman Smith and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

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

MAPT has concerns regarding SB406 School Bus Stops - Monitoring Cameras and Safety Measures, and opposes the legislation in its current iteration.

Student safety is paramount 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 keep the message direct and simple 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!

SB406 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 SB406 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

ALLEGANY – ANNE ARUNDEL – BALTIMORE CITY – BALTIMORE COUNTY – CALVERT – CAROLINE – CARROLL – CECIL – CHARLES – DORCHESTER – FREDERICK – GARRETT – HARFORD – HOWARD – KENT – MONTGOMERY – PRINCE GEORGE'S – QUEEN ANNE'S – ST. MARY'S – SOMERSET – TALBOT – WASHINGTON – WICOMICO – WORCESTER