



March 5, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., and Members  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Oppose – SB 406 - School Bus Stops – Monitoring Cameras and Safety Measures**

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland School Bus Contractors Association (MSBCA) opposes **SB 406 School Bus Stops – Monitoring Cameras and Safety Measures**. MSBCA serves as the voice of the private school bus companies that contract with local Maryland school systems in 18 of Maryland’s 24 jurisdictions that own and operate the nearly 3500 contracted school buses that transport schoolchildren across the State. MSBCA remains committed to the safety of the students they transport and considers it a privilege to do so.

MSBCA maintains concerns with SB 406 which circumvents existing law. Specifically, SB 406 calls for the issuance of a warning for motorists not stopping for buses in the process of picking up and dropping off children going to and from schools Statewide, rather than the levying of a civil penalty fine that which may occur under current law.

The members of MSBCA hold the safety of the children they transport to schools and the drivers which undertake this difficult task as our most important function. The existing law was adopted to ensure that both students and drivers were protected from careless motorists in order to save lives.

The law, which is included in the State’s Driver Education Curriculum, should be known to every Maryland driver regardless of jurisdiction. In fact, Maryland State Police (MSP), in advance of the 2023-2024 school year issued a press release reiterating the law to Maryland motorists and included the following facts and guidance; “Millions of children ride school buses and are most at risk when they get on or off the bus. There were 1,009 fatal school-transportation-related crashes from 2011 to 2020, according to the National Highway Safety Administration”. MSP added, “Stop when a bus stops. It is illegal to pass a school bus with its red lights flashing... Students of all ages are unpredictable. Therefore, prepare for the unexpected and “maintain safe distances from the school bus at all times”.

Once again, MSBCA opposes SB 406 and asks for an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to our State.

Sincerely,

*Steve Nelson*

Steve Nelson, President  
1 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401  
410.268.3099

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