



February 27, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman and Members  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Informational Only – HB 474 - Vehicle Laws - Dangerous Accumulations of Snow and Ice - Removal From Exposed Vehicle Surfaces (Clear Before You Drive Act)**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland School Bus Contractors Association (MSBCA) has concerns regarding HB 474 - Vehicle Laws - Dangerous Accumulations of Snow and Ice - Removal from Exposed Vehicle Surfaces (Clear Before You Drive Act).

MSBCA serves as the voice of the private school bus companies that contract with local Maryland school systems in 20 of 24 jurisdictions. MSBCA members own and operate over 3,600, or 50% of the school buses transporting school children across the great State of Maryland. MSBCA contracted school buses routes travel over 58 million miles each year while remaining fully committed to the safety of the students we transport and considers it a privilege to do so.

MSBCA asks the sponsors and the committee to consider an amendment to this bill exempting school buses. Such exemption for school bus operations is particularly appropriate given the unique workforce demographics of this industry. State workforce data shows the average school bus driver is approximately 54 years old, with more than 70% of school bus drivers age 50 or older — significantly older than the general workforce. Maryland school transportation systems already face persistent driver shortages, and many districts rely heavily on retirees and second-career workers to meet transportation needs.

Requiring drivers or contractors to climb onto elevated bus sloped roofs in winter weather conditions presents disproportionate safety risks to this older workforce and could accelerate retirements, reduce available drivers, and ultimately disrupt student transportation statewide.

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Because school transportation is an essential public service — with a majority of Maryland students relying on buses to access education — unintended workforce impacts could directly affect school attendance, special education services, and family stability.

For these reasons, a narrowly tailored exemption for school buses would preserve student safety while avoiding unintended operational disruptions

Again, MSBCA looks forward to working with all our legislators to make Maryland the safest and most efficient state in the country for all our children.

Sincerely,

*Steve Nelson*

Steve Nelson  
President

*Marty Lostrom*

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