



March 3, 2026

The Honorable Chairman Marc Korman
Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
House Office Building, Annapolis, MD

Re: UNFAVORABLE POSITION on HB 1446 - Commercial Driver's Instructional Permits - School Vehicles - Knowledge Test

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

The Maryland School Bus Contractors Association (MSBCA) has an UNFAVORABLE position to HB 1446 in its current form. MSBCA serves as the voice of the private school bus companies that contract with local Maryland school systems in 20 of our 24 jurisdictions. MSBCA members own and operate over 3,600 or 51% of the school buses across 51 million miles over the state each year while remaining fully committed to the safety of the students.

However, MSBCA also views this legislation as an important opportunity to collaborate with the Sponsor and the Committee on addressing the statewide challenge of recruiting and retaining qualified school bus drivers.

Every school district in Maryland continues to face significant shortages of certified school bus drivers. While we share the goal of expanding the workforce, we have concerns about allowing school systems to administer CDL Instructional Permits and Knowledge Tests internally. Doing so could create inconsistencies, introduce potential bias, and place districts with limited resources at a disadvantage. Additionally, the bill would remove all Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration oversight from the steps required to obtain a CDL with a S or P Endorsements—credentials essential for having safe and professional school bus drivers on our roads. The final skills test after the Instructional Permit and Knowledge Test is already available through approved third-party testers, including schools, making further decentralization unnecessary.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with the Sponsor on revising this bill to establish a School Bus Driver Workforce Development Task Force focused on real solutions for recruiting and retaining school bus drivers statewide. Such a task force could develop best practices for outreach, create marketing and recruitment materials, and identify resources to help prospective drivers successfully obtain required credentials through established and equitable processes.

MSBCA remains committed to working with all members of the General Assembly to ensure Maryland continues to provide the safest and most efficient school transportation system for our most precious cargo, our children.

Sincerely,

Steve Nelson

Steve Nelson
President

Martha "Marty" Lostrom

Martha "Marty" Lostrom
Executive Director