



March 10, 2026

The Honorable Jheanelle Wilkins
Ways and Means Committee
Senate Office Building, Annapolis, MD

Re: FAVORABLE– HB 1493 - Charles County - Student Bus Transportation Providers - Provider Displacement

Dear Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland School Bus Contractors Association (MSBCA) supports House Bill 1493. MSBCA serves as the voice of the private school bus companies that contract with local Maryland school systems in 20 of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions. MSBCA members own and operate over 3,600, or 51%, of the school buses transporting school children across our state. MSBCA contracted school bus routes travel over 58 million miles each year while remaining fully committed to the safety of the students we transport.

HB 1493 specifically addresses notice of “displacement” for the 24 student transportation businesses, mostly women and minority owned, that have provided student transportation to Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) for more than 100 years. **HB 1493 simply provides for timely notification, at least 6 years of operational changes that displace current Bus Contractors.** This gives all Bus Contractors, who personally purchase and mortgage expensive school buses the time to plan and maintain security for their more than 400 employees and families.

What HB 1493 is not about is changes to existing contracts, contract clauses like severability for cause, or mandating the duration of contracts. Those terms remain as agreed upon between the Contractor and the School District.

MSBCA also supports Amendments requested by the Bus Contractors and the Charles County Delegation, reducing the termination notice from 10 years to 6 years and the removal of the buy-out clause.

The proposed legislation is crucial for ensuring stability and long-term planning not only for the School Bus Contractors but also for the County’s school system, providing mutual benefits and a stronger foundation for collaboration. **We know that the Charles County School Bus Contractors remain committed to working together, and we believe this legislation would enhance that partnership by bringing fairness, transparency, security, and respect to all parties involved.**

Thank you for your time and favorable consideration of HB 1493.

Sincerely,

Steve Nelson

Steve Nelson
President

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Martha “Marty” Lostrom
Executive Director