



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

March 2, 2021

To: House Economic Matters Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of HB1326 - Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Revisions and Public Health Emergency Leave**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing HB 1326. This bill repeals the exemptions from the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act for several employee categories, including agriculture workers. The bill requires employers to allow employees to use earned sick and safe leave during a public health emergency and requires employers to provide employees earned sick and safe leave on the date that a public health emergency was declared or proclaimed for a jurisdiction. The bill requires an employer to provide earned sick and safe leave regardless of the employee's length of employment with the employer.

During the paid sick leave bill discussion several years ago, agriculture workers were exempted from this legislation due to the extreme difficulties a farm would have when trying to administer it. Unfortunately, this bill seeks to remove that exemption and add farms back into this discussion.

Maryland Farm Bureau requests the agriculture worker exemption remain in place.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES HB 1326

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396