



January 23, 2020

House Bill 1 – BUILT TO LEARN ACT OF 2020

Committee: Appropriations

Position: SUPPORT

Public schools are the institutions in our communities that drive our property values, create economic vitality in our County, and most importantly, offer our children, regardless of background, a fighting chance at a good life.

We take seriously our shared responsibility with the state to address our school capacity problems. In fact, during the County’s FY 2020 budget, we created the Reserve Fund for Permanent Public Improvements (“PPI”) to generate a projected \$250 million in bond revenues, above and beyond the existing capital program. The creation of the PPI fund is a demonstrable commitment by the County to do its part to tackle the enormous capital needs of our public education system.

Specifically, we are dedicating \$125 million of PPI funding toward the pipeline of unmet school construction priorities. Anne Arundel County Public Schools’ 2015 Strategic Facilities Utilization Master Plan identified \$2.1 billion in infrastructure needs between older buildings in dire need of renovation and new facilities critical to addressing urgent capacity issues. These urgent capacity issues do not even take into account the expansion in student population that will materialize when we enact universal pre-kindergarten.

The Built to Learn Act of 2020 would allot Anne Arundel County 12.5 percent of the total \$2.2 billion in additional school construction funding.

Given our increased local investment and our shared goal of addressing the pressing capital needs of our school system, we respectfully ask the members of the General Assembly to work with us to maximize state support for upcoming school construction projects in Anne Arundel County.

For those reasons, I urge a FAVORABLE report on House Bill 1.

Stuart Pittman
County Executive