

Kenley Smith  
Kindergarten  
Chesapeake Science Point Elementary  
2/20/24

Pamela Beidle  
Maryland State Senator  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East Wing  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Beidle,

Hello! My name is Kenley, and I'm a Kindergartener at Chesapeake Science Point Elementary School in Hanover, Maryland. I am writing to you today because I believe in making our schools the best places they can be for learning and growing.

I learned about Senate Bill 892 and House Bill 1061, which are about creating a special fund called the Public Charter School Facility Fund. This fund would help public charter schools like mine have the money they need for essential things related to facilities rent/mortgage and building repairs. It's really important for schools to have good buildings and safe classrooms so that students like me can focus on learning new things and not worry about our school falling apart. This fund would also allow for charter schools to have an equitable approach to education in terms of budgets as 15-20% of the school's operational budget would no longer be needed for capital costs.

I love my school because my teachers are great, and I get to learn a lot of interesting things. But I know that with a little help, it could be even better for everyone who goes here now and will in the future. By supporting Senate Bill 892 and House Bill 1061, you would be helping not just me, but lots of kids all over Maryland have a better place to learn.

My mom is a former teacher and still is in the field of education. In her work, she visits multiple schools every day and knows the role the environment plays in students' education. It is critical that students are in a healthy building and in order to maintain that environment, budget funds are necessary. When those funds have to be diverted to the building and maintenance, students lose the other opportunities that make their educational experience meaningful and effective.

We all deserve to have schools that are safe, fun, and exciting places to be every day. With your help, we can make sure that every charter school in Maryland gets to be the best it can be.

Thank you very much for reading my letter. I hope you can support these bills to make our schools better places to learn and grow. We're counting on you to help make a difference for all of us students in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Kenley Smith  
Kindergarten  
Chesapeake Science Point Elementary School