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Subject: Testimony in Support of SB0892 - Funding for Public Charter School Facilities

Dear Senator McCray,

I am writing in support of SB0892. I have a child who attends Frederick Charter School in Frederick MD. Our school, like any other public school in Maryland, deserves to have our facility funded. Since the school was founded over 10 years ago, we have been housed in a business park. While the staff work hard every day to make it a warm and inviting educational environment, it is difficult when our space is severely limited and not designed with the needs of a school in mind. Our back parking lot is the only outdoor space we have for a playground, so our scholars outdoor time is limited. Because we don't have our facility funded, we have to save our money with the hope that one day we will be able to purchase our own building. With rapidly increasing property values in Frederick County, this goal seems further and further out of reach. While we save and plan, our scholars, who have some of the highest test scores in the county in both elementary and middle school, go without.

Frederick Classical Charter School has one of the most culturally diverse student populations in the county. Unfortunately, we have no paid librarian, we are lacking computers, texts, hands on materials, additional staff needed to support our students and we have are not able to provide any student transportation. If we had the funds to help provide a facility, we could use the money we have been saving, to give our scholars not only more resources within the school, but we could provide more Frederick County students the opportunity to have access to our school.

As a parent, I urge you to consider the long-term impact of supporting SB0892. By providing facilities funding for public charter schools, we invest in the future of our children and empower educators to continue delivering quality education. Let us bridge the funding gap and ensure that every child, regardless of the type of public school they attend, has the opportunity to thrive and succeed.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I implore you to stand with parents, students, and educators in supporting SB0892, a bill that will make a profound difference in the lives of countless children across our state.

Sincerely,

Anne Levitsky

