

Dear Senators,

As the parents of students at Frederick Classical Charter, I ask for your consideration and support of SB0892 School Construction - Public Charter School Facility Fund - Establishment, sponsored by Senator McCray.

Today I'm reaching out to you, not just on behalf of our family, but on behalf of the 24,000 students statewide who are taught in charter schools.

Charter school students are public school students and they deserve to be educated in safe, welcoming, adequate school buildings just like their traditional public school peers. Just because a family decides to send their children to a public charter school and stay in the public school system, why do they have to attend, on average, an older, more in need of repair, discarded building? Why do charter school teachers have to teach in buildings that do not have adequate space, amenities, or supports? Why do charter school operators have to pull funding out of their Blueprint operating dollars (around 17-20%) to pay for their buildings, while traditional schools and LEAs pull from capital funding and general funds? Bottom line, it isn't equitable. Through your support, we can work to balance the inequities that public charter school students, families, and teachers experience in their school buildings every day.

Thank you,
Aimee Meier
Frederick County