

Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 892: School Construction - Public Charter School Facility Fund - Establishment

February 21, 2024

Dear Esteemed Members of the Senate Budget and Tax Committee,

My name is Deborah Hemingway, and I am the founder and Managing Partner of Ecphora Capital, an emerging venture firm dedicated to supporting medical device companies in Maryland. I am an alumna of the University of Maryland College Park, where I earned a PhD in Biophysics. I have been a proud resident of Anne Arundel County for many years, deeply invested in the well-being of our community. Most importantly, I am a mother to four incredible children, with my eldest, Alexandria, joining me in this endeavor today.

My three oldest children, including Alexandria, are currently attending Chesapeake Science Point Elementary School, a charter school with a commendable focus on STEM education. My youngest is eager to attend as well after he turns five next year. This institution's inaugural year has already showcased its potential to significantly impact our children's futures positively. Despite the financial constraints it faces, the school's ability to provide an exemplary educational experience is nothing short of remarkable.

However, the fiscal challenges imposed on such institutions cannot be overlooked. The restricted budget has undoubtedly limited what the school can achieve. Senate Bill 892 presents a beacon of hope in this context. By offering additional support, this bill not only promises to enhance the learning environment but also secures the future of schools like Chesapeake Science Point Elementary, ensuring they continue to flourish and serve future generations.

I support this bill, not just as a business leader or an academic, but as a parent who sees the boundless potential in all of our children. I support Senate Bill 892 because I believe in investing in our next generation. I believe in nurturing their abilities, in fostering a love for learning, and in preparing them for a future that is bright and filled with opportunities. This bill aligns with those beliefs, offering a pathway to a stronger, brighter, more resilient Maryland.

I urge you to consider the long-term impact of your decision on the children of Maryland and on the educational landscape of our state. Your support for Senate Bill 892 will be a testament to your commitment to our children's future and the prosperity of Maryland.

Thank you for your favorable support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Hemingway". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Deborah Hemingway, PhD
Founder and Managing Partner, Ecphora Capital
Alumna, University of Maryland, College Park
Resident, Anne Arundel County
Mother and Advocate for STEM Education