

February 19, 2024

Senate Budget and Tax Committee

I am the grandmother of 3 children who currently attend Chesapeake Science Point Public Charter School (CSP and CSPES) in Hanover Maryland. They are in 2^{ed}, 7th and 11th Grade. I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill 892 named "Public Charter School Facilities Fund"

CSP has been a part of our family since my son's oldest was accepted in the lottery many years ago. (she graduated in 2017). I have seen the Charter Operator; Chesapeake Lighthouse Foundation also start Chesapeake Math and IT Academy North (CMIT North) in Laurel and Chesapeake Math and IT Academy (CMIT South) in Upper Marlboro. This past year our Middle/High CSP received a 5-star rating and both CMIT schools received a 4-star rating. They are excellent schools that all in the state should be proud to support for their children, and the education that they receive.

Yet proving all the necessary things needed for an excellent school is expensive. As you know, Charter schools do receive public money, but the cost of the facilities and utilities are born within the budget of money received per pupil. In the case of CPS (Middle/High) the small building houses only 500 students yet it spends over 1 million a year in rent. Think what that money could do if it was directed to more educational opportunities and equipment. Actually, the size of the school building is a major limiting factor to the number of slots available in the lottery to enter CSP.

This bill would provide the Charter School the assistance with funds for the facilities the schools are housed in. I am hoping that you will support the passage of this bill as it will benefit not only my grandchildren but all the children of Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration.

Helen M. Chang
6839 Damsel Ct
Greenbelt, MD