

Dear **Delegate Harris**,

My name is Albert Luc (NAME) and I am writing to you today, as a/the parent (ROLE) at Chesapeake Public Charter School (CPCS) (ORGANIZATION), to ask you for your support of HB1061 [School Construction - Public Charter School Facility Fund - Establishment](#) sponsored by Delegate Young.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, this bill will be before you on March 5th. I am writing to share why this bill is essentially to pass. Maryland public charter schools are an integral part of the public school portfolio in Maryland, serving more than 24,000 students statewide. The communities with public charter schools, the teachers, special-education specialists, and staff who work there, the districts that include them, and the students that attend them would all benefit directly from the much needed funding HB1061 would supply.

LEAs are able to utilize capital funding and general funds from other sources, not available to public charter schools, to support their facilities, operations, & maintenance. HB1061 seeks to establish a fund managed by the IAC that allows public charter schools to apply for up to \$2000 per pupil annually for eligible facilities-related expenses. This funding does not impact the Blueprint budget or take funding away from any other public school students, as the funding would come from the State's General Fund. Instead, HB1061 will allow more Blueprint dollars to be spent IN the classroom on learning and exploring instead of ON the school's facility. It also sets strong parameters around spending accountability and transparency while ensuring there is standard bond bill language on repayment if a school should close or sell a privately-owned building.

Charter school students are public school students but they, in most cases, attend an older building often with an odor and in need of repair. The teachers and staff are great and attentive to students' education and progress but often face with inadequate funding to maintaining academic competitiveness for students while charter school operators have to use Blueprint budget funds for building maintenance and repairs. Unless traditional public schools, charter schools have not been able to obtain financially operational assistance from capital funds and general funds. Through your support, we can work to close inequities public charter school students, families, and teachers experience in their school buildings every day. Once this gets addressed, it will truly help all Maryland students with equitable opportunities in building a more brighter next generation of citizens.

Based on public information, there have been public charter schools in Maryland for more than twenty (20) years. It is about time we get to work on getting funds to support charter school facilities. We look forward to the hearing on March 5th and your support of HB1061, School Construction - Public Charter School Facility Fund - Establishment. Please know that it is not only myself, but the larger charter school community across the state of more than 24,000 families, 53 schools in eight districts standing behind you.

Many thanks,
Albert Luc (NAME)