

March 1, 2024

All,

My name is Alisa and I, along with my husband James, am sending this written testimony in support of HB1061. We have a 5th grader (and next year a kindergartener) at Chesapeake Public Charter School in Great Mills, MD.

We applied to our local charter school for a few years before my child was accepted in 2022 to the 4th grade. In the time between his entry to Kindergarten and 4th grade we attended a wonderful school in our neighborhood. I volunteered at our original school just as I volunteer at our current school. At our local public school a chief complaint was always the lack of engagement of the parents and families. The responsibilities of supporting many, rested on too few.

At our new charter school home, the difference surprised me– or rather the reason. While yes, there is still less help than we'd like to see, the reasons for that were not the same as they were for our neighborhood school. I live in a neighborhood with a large amount of high-earners, stay-at-home moms and a very nice community pool. The school my children attend is much more diverse. The school population is on track to mirror the diversity of the city in which it operates– the world in which we live.

The learning that happens in our school is not limited to what is being taught by teachers and learned from books. This bill will go a long way to easing worries and fears about budgets and facilities. Time previously spent worrying can be used to increase and enrich the learning that our future leaders are doing within their school walls.

Thank you for your support and if you have any questions or comments for me, please do not hesitate to reach out. I can be reached at the email below. Please pass HB1061.

Thank you,

Alisa and James Volz  
Chesapeake Public Charter School Parents  
alisab.volz@gmail.com