



Delegate Ben Barnes  
and Members, Appropriations Committee  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 6, 2024

Dear Delegate Barnes and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

My name is Dan Reed and I serve as the Regional Policy Director for [Greater Greater Washington](#), a nonprofit that works to advance racial, economic, and environmental justice in land use, transportation, and housing throughout Greater Washington. **GGWash supports House Bill 428**, which would create a fund to distribute rental assistance through the public school system.

Moving can be a big disruption for a kid, especially if you have to change schools: losing your friends, starting over with new teachers, and maybe having a longer or more difficult commute<sup>1</sup>. It's worse when a family has to move because they can't afford rent. High "mobility rates" in a school—students churning in and out, often because of unstable housing—are shown to hurt academic performance<sup>2</sup>, including for the kids who remain there<sup>3</sup>.

House Bill 428 would create a \$10 million fund for schools to provide up to 15 months' rental assistance for students in families experiencing financial hardship. This legislation recognizes the intersection between stable housing and better learning outcomes, and we ask the Appropriations Committee to give this bill a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan Reed'.

Dan Reed  
Regional Policy Director

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.northernpublicradio.org/wnij-news/2022-11-28/how-high-student-mobility-rates-hurt-the-whole-school-community>

<sup>2</sup>

[https://dme.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dme/publication/attachments/EC%20Mobility%20Research%20Memo%20-%20Meeting%205%20\(June%202016\).pdf](https://dme.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dme/publication/attachments/EC%20Mobility%20Research%20Memo%20-%20Meeting%205%20(June%202016).pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/student-mobility-how-it-affects-learning/2016/08>

The Washington, DC region is great and it can be greater.