

February 21, 2024

Written Testimony for HB1061

I express my gratitude to the Chairpersons and Committee Members for giving me this chance to testify in support of HB1061. My name is Rachel Hanson. I am writing on behalf of Frederick Classical Charter School about the urgent need for facility funding. As a parent and active member of the Frederick Classical Charter School community, I have witnessed the impact of a lack of facility funding on our school and students. Maryland Charter schools are public schools and should, therefore, be afforded the same resources and support as traditional public schools. In recent years, our school has seen a significant increase in enrollment due to its reputation for providing a high-quality education and innovative teaching methods. However, our current facilities are inadequate to accommodate this growing demand. Frederick Classical Charter School is a beacon of excellence in our community and statewide, providing our students with a rigorous and well-rounded classical education. Our committed faculty and staff put out endless effort to foster an atmosphere where students can intellectually and morally thrive. The analysis presented by my predecessors and my observations reveal how the daily conduct inside our classrooms funds the larger environment of our institution. Our school has won multiple awards and recognitions for its hardworking faculty, staff, and students, and it is currently the top charter school in our state.

However, despite our successes, we face significant challenges due to inadequate facility funding. Our school's facility is in dire need of upgrades and expansion. The current state of Frederick Classical Charter School's facility highlights the urgent need for immediate attention and funding. The outdated, limited spacing learning facilities and growing community hinder the teaching and learning process and create an atmosphere of unfairness and discomfort for our students. The impact of the lack of facility funding extends beyond mere physical deficiencies. It affects the overall learning environment and the well-being of our students. A conducive and safe learning environment is essential for the holistic development of our students, not just academically but also as individuals. The current conditions not only hamper academic progress but also instill a sense of unease and insecurity in the minds of our students. As a result, these conditions also deter prospective parents from considering our school for their children's education.

The Committee must understand the urgency at Frederick Classical Charter School. By supporting the HB1061 bill for facility funding, the committee would provide the necessary resources to address the current deficiencies for our school and other schools facing similar challenges. The lack of facility funding is not just a financial concern; it directly impacts our students' future and the academic institution's reputation. The committee's support and allocation of necessary funding will rectify the immediate physical deficiencies and signify a commitment to providing our students with a conducive and safe learning environment.

Thank you once again for the opportunity. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. I can be reached at the information below. Please pass HB1061.

Thank you,

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