

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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Eric S. Colvin



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HB 1061

School Construction – Public Charter School Facility Fund - Establishment

SUPPORT

March 1, 2024

Dear Delegate Barnes and members of the House Appropriations Committee,

I am writing to ask you for your support of HB1061 School Construction - Public Charter School Facility Fund - Establishment sponsored by Delegate Young.

St. Mary's County, like many of your counties, has a wonderful Public Charter School that provides a high-quality education to a diverse group of students from across our county. They provide an incredible model of education and really set the bar for community/parent involvement.

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 formula 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 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.

HB 1061 provides a great opportunity to ensure that education in Maryland continues to improve. I ask that you support HB1061 and I thank you for the work that you do.

Sincerely,

Eric S. Colvin
Commissioner, District 1
St. Mary's County