

February 7, 2025

The Honorable Ben Barnes  
The Honorable Mark S. Chang  
Room 121  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Support for HB0736 School Construction – Local Cost-Share – Alterations**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the House Appropriations Committee,

I am writing to you today in support of House Bill 0736, School Construction - Local Cost-Share - Alterations.

Kent County is perceived to be a rich county, and yet our public schools support a very high percentage of low-income students. Our middle school, which serves the whole county, was built 70 years ago and was old and full of asbestos when I was in school there 40 years ago. I deserved better then and my children and the other children of Kent County who can't pay their way out of the situation deserve better now.

I am a proud supporter of public education. I believe in the work of our public school teachers as important civil servants. You are also civil servants. You would be appalled if you were asked to make do with what our middle school teachers have accepted—and it's only getting worse. School was closed twice for plumbing issues. **My kid was asked not to use the bathroom, and if he had to, not to flush.** Come on people. You would never put up with that. Please invest in our middle school so that our district can attract and retain teachers and families who know they deserve better.

The cost of building a new middle school is more than half of our entire county budget. The idea that we can afford to pay for it without significant help from the state is laughable. In fact, our lousy commissioners have been doing absolutely nothing about it other than laughing about it for years.

While I understand that we elected our representatives, and they aren't on your team (Team Dem) (also my team), please don't punish the kids of Kent County for it. We really could use your help.

Thank you,  
Robbi Behr  
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