

The Honorable Chair

Delegate Ben Barnes

House Appropriations Committee

121 House Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Vice Chair

Delegate Mark S. Chang

RE: FAVORABLE – SUPPORT of House Bill 1430

Maryland Public Charter School Program – School Facilities – Funding

Dear Members of the House Appropriations Committee,

My name is Desiree Mortenson, and I am a Frederick County resident and supporter of public charter schools. I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1430, which would help ensure that public charter schools have access to the facilities funding necessary to provide safe, functional, and effective learning environments for their students.

Public charter schools are an important part of Maryland's public education system. Many families choose charter schools because they offer innovative approaches to learning, specialized programs, and strong community engagement. These schools serve public school students and work hard to meet the needs of their communities, yet they often face significant challenges when it comes to securing and maintaining adequate facilities.

Facilities funding is essential to ensuring that charter school students have the same access to safe classrooms, libraries, science labs, and learning spaces that students in other public schools receive. When schools lack reliable funding for facilities, it can limit their ability to grow, maintain buildings, and provide the best possible learning environment for students.

Supporting HB1430 would help create a more equitable system for Maryland's public charter school students and the families who rely on these schools. I respectfully urge the committee to give this bill a favorable report so that charter school students across the state have access to the safe and well-maintained learning environments they deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Desiree Mortenson

Frederick County Resident