

# Lighting the Path

Written Testimony of Monshell Reyes

*Maryland public school staff member, parent, and taxpayer*

**In Support of HB1430 – Maryland Public Charter School Program – School Facilities – Funding**

Maryland House Appropriations Committee

March 11, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Monshell Reyes, and I am a school counselor at KIPP Baltimore, a public charter school enrolling more than 1,400 students in West Baltimore. **I write to express my support for HB1430.**

Every day, I see how important strong learning environments are for students. Safe, well-maintained facilities are not a luxury — they are a foundation for effective teaching and learning. Strong school facilities also support educators like me by providing the safe, functional learning environments that my colleagues and I deserve to do our best work for students every day.

Unlike traditional public schools, public charter schools must pay for their buildings using the same funding meant for classrooms, teachers, and student programs. This forces schools to make trade-offs between maintaining safe, functional buildings and investing fully in students and instruction.

HB1430 would help address this inequity by providing dedicated facilities funding for public charter school students. With up to \$1,600 per pupil in facilities support, schools can maintain safe, functional buildings while keeping classroom resources focused on teaching and learning.

Public charter school students are public school students, and they deserve learning environments that support their success. For these reasons, **I respectfully ask the committee to give HB1430 a favorable report.**

Sincerely,

Monshell Reyes

School Counselor

Baltimore, Maryland