



**Testimony: HB1430**  
**Position: Support**

**MARCH 9, 2026**

House Appropriations Committee  
120 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Barnes and Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee:

**We strongly urge your support for HB1430: Maryland Public Charter School Facility Funding. HB1430 creates equitable facilities funding for Maryland public charter schools so that schools can spend more resources on students and classrooms rather than building costs.**

Bluebird Education Network is committed to being a place where children thrive with a whole-child educational approach. As the non-profit operator of both Patterson Park Public Charter School and Clay Hill Public Charter School, we collectively serve over 1,000 students and their families.

Both of our schools operate in privately owned buildings, and Bluebird Education Network does not have access to the LEA's allocation for facility funding and must leverage per pupil revenue or fundraising for any major capital expense. Below is just a snapshot of the previous or upcoming projects that could be supported through HB1430:

- Patterson Park Public Charter School's HVAC system is nearing end of life. Replacement cost is estimated to be \$150,000 per floor x 6 floors = \$900,000.
- Patterson Park Public Charter School's roof is also in need of significant repairs estimated to be \$150,000.
- Clay Hill Public Charter School has completed three, major renovation projects in order to open the school and grow to scale. Our final phase of construction is estimated to be an outstanding \$1.75 million.

**Charter school students are public school students and deserve fair access to facilities funding.**

HB1430 provides \$1,600 per pupil dedicated to facilities beginning in FY2028. These funds are a vital lifeline for our work in Southeast Baltimore ensuring that our school buildings are safe, vibrant, suitable to size, and financially sustainable. **In other words, HB1430 will ensure that per pupil revenue can be used in the classroom instead of on the classroom.**

**HB1430 is not just a smart investment for public school students, it is a smart investment for the State of Maryland.** HB1430 allows Maryland to gain access to federal dollars to support public charter school



facility expenses. In essence, Maryland is leaving money on the table that could be put to use to support public school students.

We respectfully request your support for HB1430.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jane Firdenfer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cc: Senate President Bill Ferguson, Delegate Luke Clippinger, Delegate Mark Edelson, Delegate Robbyn Lewis