

HB1329_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
03/11/2026
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TESTIMONY ON HB#1329 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Education - Public School Construction - Funding

TO: Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser, and members of the Appropriations Committee
FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB1329, **Education - Public School Construction – Funding**

Maryland Matters has reported on the Comptroller report that said *80% of public schools in need of 'repair, renovation or replacement'*¹

Just 20% of the state's school buildings are in satisfactory shape or better, while the other 80% would need "repair, renovation or replacement" to get to that level, according to a report released Thursday.

The report from Comptroller Brooke Lierman said that the state needs to improve its school facilities if it wants to keep its reputation for top-ranked schools, but that doing so will require "a statewide reimagining of funding formulas and revenue streams."

In recognition of this crisis this bill is submitted to attempt to begin resolving the problem.

This bill will codify certain provisions of law that specify the intent of the General Assembly that the State provide at least a certain amount of funding for public school construction each year; and will increase the annual public school construction funding goal to \$550,000,000 beginning in fiscal year 2027.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB1329.

¹ <https://marylandmatters.org/2025/09/19/comptroller-80-of-public-schools-in-need-of-repair-renovation-or-replacement/>