

Parent & Taxpayer Testimony in Support of HB1430

Maryland Public Charter School Program – School Facilities – Funding

House Appropriations Committee

March 9, 2026

Dear Chair and members of the committee,

I am both a parent of a student at Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA) in LaPlata, Charles County and a Maryland taxpayer. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB1430**.

I want our students to have access to schools that support their learning, growth, and future opportunities. We chose PISOTA because it was a perfect fit for our daughter's talents, would challenge her academically, and would provide a caring and supportive environment for her to thrive. She started at PISOTA a few weeks after the school year began. However, her transition to PISOTA was smooth; the staff and students welcomed her warmly. On her first day principal Dr. Bateman, and assistant principal Mr. Hill, greeted us and ensured she navigated her schedule successfully and had the support that she needed.

Our daughter has excelled at PISOTA. She has further developed her visual art skills; her work was displayed at the PISOTA Winter Showcase. She has embraced her love of language. At PISOTA she is learning a foreign language. If she were still at a traditional public school in our county, she would have to wait until later in her educational journey to have this experience as part of her formal education.

I believe public education dollars should be used primarily to support students, teachers, and learning. Despite charter schools being public schools serving public school students, they often do not receive the same amount of facilities funding as traditional public schools. Without or with less facilities funding, charter schools are sometimes forced to make difficult decisions between resources for students and teachers and building repairs or upgrades.

The facilities funding included in HB1430 would help create a more responsible funding system that would benefit charter schools. It would ensure charter schools have dedicated support for maintaining their facilities so that more public education dollars can go directly toward instruction, teachers, and student learning.

As a parent and a taxpayer, I believe this legislation represents a wise investment in Maryland's students that will improve the public education system.

Thank you for your time and for consideration of this important bill.

With gratitude,

Mrs. Myrick

Charles County resident

Parent of Phoenix International School of the Arts student and Maryland taxpayer