

Student Testimony Template

Testimony in Support of HB1430

Maryland Public Charter School Program – School Facilities – Funding
House Appropriations Committee
March 11, 2026

Good afternoon Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Micah Cambridge, and I am a 7th grade student at Phoenix International School of the Arts in Charles County. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of HB1430.

I love my school because I have the opportunity to explore the arts, learn in creative ways and be part of a smaller school environment.

Charter schools create unique learning environments that help students explore their interests and prepare for the future.

But many charter schools operate in buildings that were not originally built for schools or that need improvements. Because charter schools often do not receive facilities funding, schools sometimes have to use money meant for learning to pay for building costs.

That means schools sometimes have to decide between fixing the building and investing in student opportunities.

The \$1,600 per student facilities funding in HB1430 would help change that.

It would allow schools to spend more money on things that directly support students like classroom resources, technology, teachers, and programs.

It would also help ensure that charter school students learn in safe, modern spaces that match their school's size, mission, and community, just like many traditional public schools already do.

With this funding, schools could expand opportunities like [insert programs your school offers or hopes to expand — robotics, arts programs, internships, labs, student spaces, etc.].

Students at charter schools are public school students too. We work hard, we care about our education, and we deserve learning environments that support our success.

Thank you for listening to student voices and for supporting opportunities for students like me.

Respectfully,
Micah Cambridge
7th Grader - PISOTA
Charles County