

KIPP Baltimore

Written Testimony of Natalia Walter Adamson

Maryland taxpayer & Chief Academic Officer of KIPP Baltimore Public Charter Schools

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 Natalia Walter Adamson, and I serve as Chief Academic Officer for KIPP Baltimore; before taking on this role, I served as founding principal of KIPP Harmony Academy. For more than two decades, I have worked as a teacher, instructional leader, and school principal focused on helping students in Baltimore reach ambitious academic goals in partnership with families.

In my role overseeing academic programming across our schools, I see every day how the learning environment shapes students' ability to succeed. Facilities are not separate from academic outcomes—they directly support the work teachers do and the experiences students have each day in the classroom. At KIPP Baltimore, we have made significant investments in strengthening literacy instruction through the Science of Reading, ensuring that every student receives rigorous, research-based reading instruction from the earliest grades. This work requires sustained investment in curriculum, teacher training, and instructional supports. However, public charter schools must fund their facilities using the same resources intended for instruction and academic programming. This forces schools to make trade-offs between maintaining their buildings and sustaining the academic investments that help students thrive.

Sometimes, shifting financial resources away from the classroom has been unavoidable. Last year, a burst pipe rendered our gymnasium floor unsafe for students, and we had to invest in fully repairing that space before it could be used again. Addressing that facilities need required immediate funding—resources that otherwise could have supported instructional priorities such as teacher training and curriculum aligned to the Science of Reading.

HB1430 would help address this inequity by providing dedicated facilities funding so schools can maintain safe, functional learning environments while keeping academic resources focused where they belong—on teaching and learning. For these reasons, **I respectfully urge the committee to give HB1430 a favorable report.**

Sincerely,



Natalia Walter Adamson
Chief of Staff, KIPP Baltimore