

SB 0031/HB 337: School Construction and Housing - School Zones and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Appropriations Committee:

I am writing as a concerned resident of Maryland to strongly oppose **SB 0031/HB 337**.

Maryland already faces serious challenges with overcrowded schools, strained infrastructure, and rapidly growing housing developments in many counties. Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances exist precisely to ensure that new development does not overwhelm schools, roads, and other public services before they are ready. This bill weakens those important local safeguards by prioritizing faster housing approvals over student needs and community planning.

My main concerns include:

- It reduces local control and forces counties to approve developments even when schools are severely over capacity.
- It places additional administrative burdens on school systems through new mandatory reporting requirements while simultaneously limiting their ability to manage growth.
- It will worsen classroom overcrowding, longer bus routes, and declining educational quality for children across Maryland.
- School capacity should be a legitimate factor in development decisions, not an inconvenience that state law sidelines.

Responsible growth means building schools **before** or, at least, **alongside** new housing — not forcing existing schools and taxpayers to absorb the costs of unplanned expansion. Maryland families and students deserve strong protections for school capacity, not legislation that makes overcrowding easier to ignore.

I respectfully urge you to **oppose SB 0031/HB 337** and vote against its passage.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my concerns regarding this important educational facilities planning legislation.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals

