

**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 **Vaun Greer**, and I am **both a parent of a first-grade student at CMIT North Elementary in Prince George's County and a Maryland taxpayer**. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1430.

Like many parents, I want my child to have access to a school that supports their learning, growth, and future opportunities. My family chose CMIT North Elementary because of its strong STEM-focused curriculum and college preparatory mission. **CMIT North is consistently ranked as the #1 charter elementary school in Maryland and the #1 elementary school in Prince George's County Public Schools according to U.S. News rankings**. This level of academic excellence and the school's innovative approach to STEM education from the earliest grades is exactly what we wanted for our children.

For my child, this school has made a real difference. **My daughter recently won a STEM fair competition, something I never imagined possible in first grade. The exposure CMIT North provides to hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math projects has ignited a passion for learning in her that goes far beyond what I could have hoped for. She comes home excited to share what she's discovered, and I've watched her confidence and critical thinking skills grow tremendously. I also have a child in preschool who was planned to matriculate to CMIT North, but that pathway is now in jeopardy due to facility funding challenges. There are no other nearby high-quality schools like this in our area that can provide the same level of STEM excellence and academic rigor. The thought of my younger child not having access to the same exceptional education is deeply concerning.** Public charter schools provide families with important educational opportunities and choices within the public school system. They serve thousands of Maryland students and give families access to innovative programs that meet different learning styles and needs.

But while charter schools are public schools serving public school students, they often do not receive the same facilities funding that traditional public schools receive.

That means charter schools frequently have to pay for their buildings using the same funding that is meant to support classroom instruction.

As a taxpayer, I believe public education dollars should be used primarily to support students, teachers, and learning.

However, without facilities funding, charter schools are sometimes forced to make difficult decisions—like whether to fix the roof or buy library books, whether to repair heating systems or invest in science equipment, or whether to maintain the building or expand student programs.

Those are choices no school should have to make.

The \$1,600 per pupil facilities funding included in HB1430 would help create a more equitable and responsible funding system. 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.

This bill is about fairness. Charter school students are public school students, and they deserve the same access to safe, appropriate learning environments.

As both a parent and a taxpayer, I believe this legislation represents a smart investment in Maryland's students and a step toward a more equitable public education system.

Thank you for your time and for considering this important bill

Respectfully,

Vaun Greer

Prince George's County

Parent of CMIT North Elementary student and Maryland taxpayer