

**HB 1430/SB 960:** Maryland Public Charter School Program - School Facilities - Funding: Please **SUPPORT** this bill **WITH AMENDMENTS**.

Dear Budget & Taxation Committee:

I am writing as a resident of Maryland to express strong support for **HB 1430/SB 960**. Providing dedicated, stable funding for public charter school facilities is an important step toward *ensuring all Maryland students have access to safe and adequate learning environments*, regardless of whether they attend a traditional public school or a charter school.

I urge you to support this bill **with a critical amendment** to reinstate the original funding level exactly as follows:

"an appropriation for the maintenance and operation of public charter school facilities that is equal to the total aggregate student enrollment in the Maryland Public Charter School Program for the prior fiscal year multiplied by \$1,600."

**The reduced amount** that appears **in the current version of HB 1430 is insufficient** to meaningfully address the serious facilities challenges faced by charter schools. The original per-pupil formula of "equal to the total aggregate student enrollment in the Maryland Public Charter School Program for the prior fiscal year multiplied by \$1,600" provides a more realistic level of support that better enables charter schools to maintain safe buildings, cover lease or mortgage payments, and *create appropriate learning spaces without diverting essential operating dollars away from classroom instruction*.

Restoring the per-pupil formula of "equal to the total aggregate student enrollment in the Maryland Public Charter School Program for the prior fiscal year multiplied by \$1,600" ensures the bill delivers real impact for students and families who choose public charter schools while maintaining fairness and accountability in how the funds are used.

I respectfully ask you to **vote in favor of HB 1430/SB 960 with the amendment restoring the full per-pupil funding formula "equal to the total aggregate student enrollment in the Maryland Public Charter School Program for the prior fiscal year multiplied by \$1,600"**. This change will make the legislation far more effective at supporting high-quality educational options across Maryland.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my amendment request to this important education legislation.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals