



# Howard County Council

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Councilmember

District 3

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB934

### Education - Public School Construction – Funding

March 11, 2026

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

As the Councilmember representing District 3 on the Howard County Council, I am writing to express my support for SB934, Senator Corderman's legislation, to increase the annual public school construction funding for the Maryland Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC). This legislation takes an important step toward strengthening Maryland's commitment to modern, safe, and effective learning environments by establishing a higher and more predictable annual funding goal for public school construction.

Stable and adequate investment in school facilities is critical for Maryland counties, including Howard County. The Howard County Public School System consistently ranks among the best in the nation but maintaining that standard requires sustained investment in the buildings. Comptroller Lierman's School Construction Report from September of 2025 found that 80 percent of schools need repair, renovation, or replacement to be considered satisfactory. Counties need strong state partnership and funding to effectively address this challenge. Ensuring reliable state funding helps local jurisdictions plan responsibly for the construction and renovation projects necessary to meet current and future demand.

Investments in school construction support the modernization of existing facilities so that they meet today's educational, technological, and environmental standards. Updated buildings improve the learning environment for students, enhance safety and accessibility, and support teachers and staff in delivering high-quality instruction. In addition, school buildings now must be updated to meet the requirements for pre-Kindergarten. Schools also serve as critical community assets, hosting recreation programs, and civic events, and maintaining them strengthens the broader community.

I respectfully urge the Committee to give SB 934 a favorable report. Strengthening the State's commitment to school construction funding will help ensure that counties like Howard County can continue providing high-quality educational facilities that meet the needs of current and future generations of students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours in service,

Christiana Rigby