

# KIPP Baltimore

## **HB1430 – SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

### **Maryland Public Charter School Program – School Facilities – Funding**

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB1430 and to recommend two key modifications to ensure the bill achieves its intended impact: (1) setting the funding level at no less than \$800 per student, and (2) removing the amendment that excludes certain charter schools. As KIPP Baltimore’s Executive Director, I have seen how powerfully school facilities shape both experience and outcomes. Buildings are not neutral—they reflect our expectations for students and influence what is possible for them. If Maryland is serious about its commitment to public education, this bill must be funded at a level that meaningfully supports school facilities.

Maryland currently lacks a dedicated, statewide facilities funding mechanism for public charter schools. As a result, schools must redirect operational and instructional dollars to cover building-related costs—an inefficient use of resources that places unnecessary strain on classrooms.

HB1430 presents a balanced and cost-effective solution. At approximately \$800 per student, the State’s annual investment would be partially offset by access to the federal State Charter School Facilities Incentive Grant (SFIG), which can provide up to \$10 million annually. This significantly reduces the net cost to the State while increasing total investment in school facilities.

However, the bill’s effectiveness depends on its structure. A statewide, inclusive program is required to qualify for federal funding. The current exclusion provision not only creates inequity among public school students but also risks forfeiting tens of millions of dollars in federal support.

In short, HB1430 is a fiscally responsible opportunity to improve facilities funding, maximize federal dollars, and ensure more resources reach students. The amended bill will also serve a strong signal to Maryland’s 25,000+ public charter school students and families that their elected government sees and supports their potential. I urge the Committee to advance the bill with an \$800 per pupil funding level and without the exclusion amendment.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,



**Marsha Reeves**

*Executive Director, KIPP Baltimore, Maryland District 41*

*Resident, Maryland District 41*

***Every child grows up free to create the future they want for themselves and their communities.***

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