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**House Bill 1430 – Maryland Public Charter School Program - School Facilities - Funding
Budget and Tax Committee
April 1, 2026, 1:00pm**

UNFAVORABLE

On behalf of the Baltimore Teachers Union, I respectfully urge you to issue an unfavorable report on House Bill 1430, which would allocate \$200 per pupil to charter schools for facilities costs.

We want to be clear at the outset: we strongly support every public school student’s right to learn in a safe, healthy, and well-maintained environment. This includes students in traditional public schools and public charter schools alike. Across our state, the need for investment in school facilities is significant and urgent. Many districts are struggling with aging buildings, deferred maintenance, overcrowding, and health and safety upgrades that cannot wait.

However, this bill does not address those needs in a fair or equitable way.

First, the capital needs of our traditional public schools are immense and well-documented. Districts must maintain and upgrade facilities that serve the vast majority of students, often with limited local tax capacity and long backlogs of critical repairs. These needs are typically addressed through established public processes that prioritize projects based on urgency, safety, and community impact.

Second, this proposal creates an inherent inequity by allowing charter schools to effectively “skip the line” for facilities funding. While districts must wait their turn and compete for scarce capital dollars, this bill would provide a dedicated, per-pupil funding stream to charter schools outside of those established prioritization systems. This undermines the principle that public funds for facilities should be allocated based on need, not school type.

Third, diverting additional funds in this manner risks exacerbating existing disparities. Every dollar directed through a separate funding stream is a dollar not available to address the most critical infrastructure needs across the broader public school system. At a time when many students are learning in buildings that require urgent repairs or modernization, we should be strengthening equitable, need-based capital funding—not creating parallel systems that advantage some schools over others.

We urge the Committee to focus on comprehensive, equitable solutions that ensure all public school students—regardless of where they are enrolled—have access to safe and healthy learning

environments. This means investing in facility funding systems that are transparent, needs-based, and fair to all.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 1430.

Thank you for your consideration.