

GLENN IVEY
4TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE,
AND SCIENCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2004

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1610 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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LANDOVER, MD 20785
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April 1, 2026

Dear Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

I am writing in support of SB0960 Maryland Public Charter School Program - School Facilities - Funding, with amendments to ensure it achieves its intended impact.

First, I urge the committee to remove the exclusion amendment. The State Facilities Incentive Grant (SFIG) requires that funding be statewide and equitably distributed. Excluding any group of charter schools jeopardizes Maryland's ability to access this federal funding.

Second, I recommend that the funding level be increased to at least \$800 per pupil. While the House reduced the allocation to \$200 per pupil, that amount falls below the minimum threshold needed for Maryland to qualify for and maximize SFIG funding. At \$800 per pupil, Maryland can unlock approximately \$10 million per year for five years in federal funding dedicated exclusively to charter school facilities.

Two prominent public charter schools in Prince George's County serving approximately 1,500 students – Chesapeake Math & IT (CMIT) Academy South Middle School / High School, 9822 Fallard Ct, Upper Marlboro, and Chesapeake Math & IT (CMIT) Academy North High School, 14800 Sweitzer Ln, Laurel, MD 20707 – are in danger of closing while others are making very tough decisions just to remain open. CMIT schools enhance STEM learning through advanced mathematics and computer courses, and offer extensive after school activities and sports teams. The shuttering of these programs would be a devastating loss for the students, their families, and our community.

CMIT schools are currently operating at an unsustainable deficit creating a major inequity.

This bill would allow Maryland to access federal SFIG funding that would allow them to remain open.

Public charter school students are public school students. Yet unlike their peers in district-operated schools, their schools often must pay for rent, maintenance, utilities, and building costs using classroom dollars. This legislation is an important step toward addressing that inequity.

To ensure Maryland can access critical federal SFIG funding, I respectfully ask that you remove the exclusion amendment and increase funding to at least \$800 per pupil.

I respectfully ask the members of the committee to vote yes in support of SB0960.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to Maryland's students.

GLENN IVEY

4TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Glenn F. Ivey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Glenn F. Ivey
Member of Congress