

EQUITABLE FACILITIES FUNDING FOR CITY NEIGHBORS AND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS!!

What is this legislation and how does it help us?

House Bill 156 / Senate Bill 172 (*Public Charter School Facility Fund*) was announced by Governor Larry Hogan on January 23rd. This legislation would create a fund for public charter school facilities, allocating up to \$1,600 per pupil to public charter schools like City Neighbors to obtain and maintain their facilities. Unlike 16 other states, including Massachusetts and the District of Columbia, Maryland law does not provide per pupil funding or other programs to assist public charter schools in obtaining and maintaining their facilities. Accordingly, unlike traditional public schools, public charter schools are responsible for finding and paying for their own facilities using their per pupil operating revenue, diverting much needed money from our classrooms and students. If passed, this legislation could provide somewhere between \$200,000-\$400,000 per year in additional revenue for us, allowing us to add staff and programming back to our school model.

What do you want me to do?

We need our community to write to letters to their State Senator and Delegates to ask them to support and co-sponsor this legislation. **Your voice matters!**

Who do I send my email or letter to?

1. **If you live in the City**, find your Legislator [HERE](#)

OR

Go to <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov>

Click on *Legislators*

Click *Who Represents Me?* (Top right side)

Insert address and zip code

Search should give you the name of your State Senator and Delegates

2. **If you do not live in the City**, please address send your letters or emails to:

Delegate Maggie McIntosh

121 House Office Building

6 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

maggie.mcintosh@house.state.md.us

Senator Bill Ferguson

3 West Miller Senate Office Building

11 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

bill.ferguson@senate.state.md.us

What should I say?

- These messaging points are meant as a framework. **For the most impact, make the letter/email personal.** Write in your voice and use your words!

- Key message points:
 - I am a constituent (*only if you live in the City*) and teacher/Staff/Parent at ADD SCHOOL, a public charter school serving X students in NAME NEIGHBORHOOD. *Again, make this personal. You can share something about your child and family or what you teach or the reason you work here.*
 - Then let them know you are writing to ask them to co-sponsor House Bill 156 / Senate Bill 172, the Public Charter Schools Facilities Fund. This legislation which creates equitable facilities funding for public charter schools.
 - Additional points to make (*you choose!*)
 - Unlike traditional public schools, we do not have facilities funds to maintain our building. *Share what this means in terms of the condition of your building*
 - Maryland law states that City Neighbors and other public charter schools are entitled to receive “commensurate” funding to traditional public schools, yet public charter schools must use the per pupil funding meant for operating costs to pay for building costs. This takes funding away from the classroom and our students.
 - The lack of facilities funding combined with a continued decrease in per pupil funding for public charter schools threatens our school’s ability to keep our promise to our students and families. We need your support!

- Thank them for their support and again urge them to co-sponsor HB 156 / SB 172 providing new state facilities funding for public charter schools.

SAMPLE

Dear Senator or Delegate Last Name,

I am a parent at _____. My child is in the _____ grade. We love this school and the community, innovative approach it takes to educating my child. We can't imagine being anywhere else.

I am writing to ask you to co-sponsor House Bill 156 / Senate Bill 172, the Public Charter Schools Facilities Fund. This legislation creates equitable facilities funding for public charter schools.

As you know, charter schools do not get facilities funding and we have to divert money from teachers and supplies to taking care of our building. This isn't fair to our students and to the choices that I have made as a parent.

I really thank you for your support – and for supporting my family and our great school. Please co-sponsor this legislation.

Thanks,
Joe & Jane Doe