Public Charter Schools Facilities Fund Advocacy Night February 19, 2019

***Purpose***

The goal of this night is to both engage with Legislators and, through sheer numbers, make a statement about the broad support for this bill. Parents, students, teachers, and administrators are invited to share their experiences with lawmakers. It is ok for children to attend, however please consider the circumstances so that the evening is productive. Older children who can speak directly with legislators about their school will certainly gain valuable experience.

We encourage you to [read the bill – access it here under “Documents”](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?pid=billpage&stab=01&id=hb0156&tab=subject3&ys=2019RS)

***Logistics***

The event will begin at 5:30 on Tuesday, February 19th. It is an indoor event at Miller Senate Office Building 1 in Annapolis, MD. From 5:30-6, there will be various speakers from the podium who will help us understand the bill, our work for that night, and the steps beyond Advocacy Night. From 6-7(ish), we will invite our Delegates and Senators to come by the room and talk at tables with us. The evening will end somewhere around 7:15pm.

Carpools are suggested. Please email advocacy@frederickclassicalcharterschool.org if you wish to join a carpool. The current carpool meeting location is Frederick Costco at 2:30pm.

Parking can be a challenge. The flat rate parking is available at the Navy stadium for $5 and the lot is open until 8pm. The shuttle cost is $2 each way and it runs every 20 minutes. [Shuttle information here.](https://www.annapolis.gov/365/State-Shuttle)

Parking garages are also convenient to the Senate building, but may be full. [See printable map here.](http://www.mdffa.org/media/web/1481036599_1480972737_Map%20State%20Govt.%20Annapolis.pdf)

***Invite Your Legislator***

It is important that legislators who have constituents in the room receive an invitation from you/the constituent to attend the event and meet with you or the parents who are attending.

As soon as possible, please send an e-mail to your local representative in the House and Senate (See link below to find your legislator) to let them know you will be in attendance and are interested in talking with them. Please blind copy (bcc) (mchalupa@cityneighbors.org) on any e-mails to representatives so that we can determine which district legislators should get follow up.

***Sample email***

Dear Senator/Delegate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I am a constituent of yours and I will be in Annapolis on Tuesday, February 19th from 6-7 for the Charter School Lobby Night. Hundreds of parents, students and educators will be gathering in Miller Senate Building East 1 to show our support for our public charter school students from across your district and the state.

The Public Charter School Facilities Bill (SB172/HB156) fixes an inequity faced by my child/student by acknowledging that public charter schools do not receive facilities funding, are often required to support the facilities of the district they are in, and then must pay for their own facilities. This bill would allow my public charter school to stop having to take funds away from teachers, supplies, and programs just to pay for their buildings.

I would really like the opportunity to speak with you about this important issue this Tuesday and hope you will come to talk with us.

Thanks!

[Your name here]

To find your Legislator go to [http://mgaleg.maryland.gov](https://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fmgaleg.maryland.gov&sa=D&usd=2&usg=AFQjCNGLEgRUumcLiN99EQxaKHRfuaYsdg)