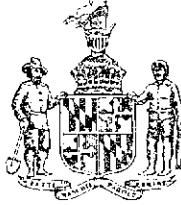


ALEX X. MOONEY
Legislative District 3
Frederick and Washington Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee
Joint Committee on Investigation



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The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

April 12, 2010

Frederick County Board of Education
Frederick Board of County Commissioners

Dear Members,

I am writing to express my support for charter schools in Maryland, specifically the Frederick Classical Charter School which is being proposed to the Frederick County Board of Education.

The Frederick Classical Charter School is hoping to open its doors to children grades K-8 for the 2011-2012 school year. As the website reads, the school aims to focus on offering "well-rounded liberal arts and sciences content through instructional approaches based on solid research."

I was a co-sponsor of Maryland's first charter school law (Senate Bill 75) which was signed into law by Governor Ehrlich in 2003. Since that law was enacted, 42 charter schools have opened in Maryland enrolling nearly 11,500 students.

It is essential we provide parents and children the option to succeed in any number of different schooling formats. Charter schools are one way in which we can empower families to take greater control over their education.

The only charter school in Frederick, the Monocacy Valley Montessori Charter School, is bursting at the seams with eager parents trying to enroll their children. This spring the school received 854 applications for a mere 25 slots. This illustrates the parents of Frederick are clamoring for schooling alternatives in our county.

The Frederick Classical Charter School is an opportunity to expand the flourishing charter school movement that our county cannot afford to pass up.

Sincerely,


Senator Alex X. Mooney