



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961...

The Voice Of The People of Howard County

Date: 17 March 2025

Subject: HCCA Testimony for CB20-2025

Hello again. I am Ryan Powers testifying on behalf of the HCCA for bill CB20-2025.

The HCCA supports CB20-2025. As construction costs have increased in recent years, the purchasing power of HCPSS has been cut almost in half. Howard County Public Schools deferred maintenance need is hundreds of millions of dollars. While we have some new buildings, our average facility condition index, scored from the state's Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC), is much higher than average given our gross square footage-- Howard County's investment in its schools isn't keeping up with other counties. The IAC report to the HB1450 Revenue Options Taskforce also noted that HCPSS only received enough money in FY25 to cover 48% of its recommended maintenance and operation spending, or 66% of its total Capital Maintenance, Alterations, and Capital Renewal recommended funding.

HCCA would also like the Council to note that Pay Go expenditure for HCPSS was down in FY25 to 13.4% compared to 23.8% in 2023 and 19.7% in 2024. This is a concerning downward trend, especially as for many years this past decade, HCPSS received 0%. We do not want to see the trend of using Pay Go funds to support infrastructure investment diminished. We worry it is instead used for other new capital projects that the county then has to maintain. As a percentage of total Capital Budget, the same downward trend is happening to the HCPSS Capital Budget: FY2023 27.8%, FY24 26.1% and finally FY25 down to 18.3%.

Please vote "YES" to CB20-2025 so that we can begin to make a dent in our school systems' infrastructure deficit.

Thank you for your time,

Ryan Powers
HCCA Board Member