The Anne Arundel County Board of Education OPPOSES Senate Bill 538 - Public School Construction - Regulations - Equitable Distribution of Projects and Improvements. This bill would require the Board of Public Works, at the recommendation of the Interagency Committee on School Construction, to adopt specified regulations that require each local school system to use a specified method for determining funding requests for public school construction projects and public school capital improvements that will result in an equitable distribution of projects and improvements in each legislative district within the geographical boundary of the local school system.

The Anne Arundel County Board of Education strongly supports the development and funding of adequate and equitable state and federal programs to assist localities with public school construction, renovation, and major maintenance projects. Unfortunately, Senate Bill 538 would usurp both the authority and the prioritization algorithms utilized by local boards of education and local superintendents of schools over the selection and ranking the order of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects. This bill would impose a legislative district “equitable distribution” test on both the Board of Public Works and the Interagency Committee on Public School Construction. As such, the sound facilities planning, facilities utilization, and facilities assessment algorithms long utilized by local education agencies would be usurped by a legislative district balance litmus test.

Accordingly, the Anne Arundel County Board of Education respectfully urges an UNFAVORABLE committee report on Senate Bill 538.