

## Carol DeSoto

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**From:** Kailey Howard <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 12:35 PM  
**To:** Public Record  
**Subject:** Fully Fund CCPS!

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County Commissioner,

My name is Kailey Howard and I am a second year teacher for CCPS. I moved to Charles County from Western Maryland 2 years ago because I fell in love with Southern Maryland. I love my apartment, I love my job, and I'm proud to say this is my forever home now.

I am single and live on my own. The cost of living in Charles County was the biggest culture shock for me. I pay over double what I paid for a larger apartment back home. I struggle and hold my breath and pray every month that I have enough money to make my bills. I could not do it if I had a child.

I think it is ridiculous that I can barely afford to live in a safe neighborhood where I work as a degreed professional. This year I had to make the difficult decision to move out of the apartment in the neighborhood I love for next year due to constant raises in rent and no promise of a raise from CCPS because of funding. I have only been able to swing it so far because I am lucky enough that my parents have helped me. I have been on their insurance and they pay for my cell phone and groceries on particular tight months. It takes more than one pay to cover my apartment rent and I also have a car note. Along with utilities and other bills my pay leaves me with around 200\$ for food a month. I am not able to gain a savings to buy a home or make student loan payments. I was in a hit and run accident this year and had to charge the expenses to my already high credit card because I do not have a savings and live pay check to pay check. This year I will age out of my parents insurance and that will be an added expense.

I am a highly effective educator. I teach special education and love my students with all my heart. I should be able to provide for them in the classroom, but I can't. Children are the future of this country and we should fully fund their education. Which includes the money to

pay to keep highly effective educators like myself living in the community. If I have to leave the county to live a higher quality of life chances are when I have children I will leave this county that I love. I am asking you to fully fund the superintendents budget for next year to keep young educators like myself working hard for their students. I would love to say that money doesn't matter, but I have to be able to afford to live here.

The Board of County Commissioners has historically provided solid funding for the students and employees of the Charles County Public School system, and I'm appreciative that my commitment to a quality education for every child is echoed by our elected officials. As an educator, having the resources I need to effectively do my job ensures that every student in our community can be a success.

To continue that vision together, I ask that you fully fund the Superintendent's budget request for the upcoming fiscal year. Now, more than ever, we've seen the impact that public education has on our community, and we need to make sure that every resource is at our disposal to maximize the education and services we provide to the students and residents of Charles County.

I know that the current times are challenging for many, but I also know that the longer-term vision of what Charles County is, and can be, is important in moving through – and beyond – the current crisis. We start to fulfill a positive vision, together, when we put resources where they are most needed. Fully fund CCPS to show that you, too, are for our students.

#EACC4OurStudents

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