

Date February 25, 2020

Good Afternoon,

My name is Daisy Velasco I am here to testify for support of HB 1011 Outreach and College Access.

I graduated from the University of Maryland College Park in December 2019 with a bachelors in Community Health. While this is a major victory, it could not have been done without the help of First Generation College Bound.

I learned about First Generation College Bound, when I was in middle school. At the time, I wasn't sure what the program did to help students, but I knew that I wanted to go to college, so I decided to take a chance and enroll. Things happened along the way and unfortunately I was disconnected from the program. I forgot about it. However, a few years later Mr. Fisher came to my high school looking for me, and once he found me I was able to see FGCB complete its mission through me.

From the moment I came back to the program, First Generation College Bound guided me through the college process. They showed me how to apply to schools and more importantly, how to apply for financial aid. First Generation College Bound's outreach, both on an individual and group level, provided me the needed advice, encouragement and support to receive the Maryland Higher Education, Howard P Rawling GA grant to graduate college with zero debt.

FGCB has invested time and resources for students like me to be successful and I am grateful to them. If it were not for First Generation College Bound my story of success would be completely different.

Thank You!