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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB523

“Occupations and Professions - Licenses, Certificates, and Registration - Immigrants”

To: Chair C.T. Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee

From: Ewaoluwa Ogundana

My name is Astrid Mendoza and I am a freshman Psychology major at the University of Maryland. I am also one of the 7,470 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. I was 2 years old when I arrived in the US so I have grown up as if I was born here. My parents did a good job of dealing with the legal details in private so I did not notice the difference until the time came to apply to college. As time passes, I am faced with more paralyzing truths about what it means to be undocumented regardless of whether I grew up in the US or not. Now attending University, I realized that I have a passion for helping others and am currently interested in attending medical school. Although I know of all of the barriers I may face due to my status, I still dream of this possibility. Just the thought of the SB523 Bill being passed brings me an indescribable excitement. I respectfully urge you to help me and thousands of others continue dreaming and some day even make our dreams our reality. Thank you for your time.