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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB523

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

To: Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Chinonso Maduforo

My name is Chinonso Maduforo from Prince George’s County. This testimony is in support of SB0523.

My family emigrated from Nigeria to the United States several years ago with hopes to build a better life. Most often, this is the case for many immigrants—the hope of a better future, a stable one. While my family was fortunate to complete the process of becoming U.S. citizens efficiently, this is not the case for many undocumented individuals.

It seems inconsistent that many of the bright individuals within this population are given the opportunity to pursue higher education but are often barred from advancing in some of the professional fields they’ve worked hard to enter due to licensing restrictions.

Much of what makes up the United States of America today was built upon the labor of people who left what they knew to pursue better, because they believed there was more out there for them and their families.

I have personally seen some of the undocumented immigrants I know push past the limitations they often face. These are our future civic leaders, engineers, inventors, healthcare professionals and so on, and I am confident that their contributions to the workforce would be advantageous for the state of Maryland.

In today’s workforce, there is much need for the innovation and work ethic many of these individuals carry, especially as demand increases for qualified professionals to fill essential roles that remain empty in this delicate time.

Therefore, I favorably support SB0523 and appeal to you to support it as well. Thank you for your time and consideration.