

I'm Don Graham, chairman of Graham Holdings Company and co-founder of a scholarship fund called TheDream.US. Our company owns businesses in Maryland including an auto dealership and the Clyde's Restaurant Group. I was publisher of The Washington Post for 21 years. I have a deep admiration for this state and for everyone who serves in this body.

Eight years ago, two friends and I co-founded a scholarship fund for undocumented students. We've partnered with over 70 colleges including, starting last fall, St. Mary's College of Maryland. We've enrolled over 7,000 students and those who've enrolled in four year colleges have a 79% graduation rate.

We've partnered since 2014 with Trinity Washington University, a women's college in Washington that has long served Maryland students. 51 Maryland high school graduates have attended Trinity, and I expect 90% will graduate. One of them, Ewa Ogundala, is testifying today!

Maryland has been generous to undocumented students. The State was among the first to give them in-state tuition at State universities and to give them the same state financial aid their high-school classmates get. Every legislator should be thanked for that. I believe the State's thinking was: these students came here as children. Giving them a chance for college will be good for them and good for us; the State will benefit by their labors and

by their ability.

Senate Bill 523 uses the same logic. Undocumented students are here in large numbers and are graduating from college. There is a critical shortage of nurses and other health-care workers in Maryland; among our [Dream.us](https://www.dream.us) students nationally, more major in health careers than in any other subject.

Maryland today is in the odd situation of encouraging these students to go to college, where many study nursing. Then when they want to work here, the state hasn't yet taken the step of allowing them to take the nursing and other licensure exams. At least 5 other states—New Jersey, Illinois, Colorado, Nevada, and California—have passed laws allowing, or permitting, undocumented people to take the examinations for any state licenses. Alongside this, 9 states—Arkansas, Florida, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming—provide certain immigration statuses the chance for licensure and employment. I hope Maryland will join them.

Please vote favorably on SB523!