

This document serves as written testimony in Favor of SB 395 The Credit for All Language Learning (CALL) Act.

My name is Margarita Gómez (Ph.D.), I am a constituent in the Maryland Congressional District 7 and Legislative District 45. I am also an Associate Professor of Literacy in Teacher Education at the Loyola University Maryland School of Education. I am writing in support of passing the CALL Act.

Currently, Multilingual learners do not receive credits for their English as an Additional Language coursework (it is not considered credit bearing for the PELL grant either). This is definitely an equity issue as we provide credit to these students toward their degree for taking these courses while multilingual learners that speak one, two, and some more languages are not given credit for English courses that are rigorous.

At a time when we need multilingual professionals in many helping professions such as health care professionals and teachers, paraeducators and school-based personnel, it is a shame that Maryland state, a leader in many educational endeavors, has not already passed CALL when states like California, and Rhode Island have already done so.

To increase degree completion of talented multilingual students, who also happen to mostly be disproportionately immigrants of color and first-generation college students, the Maryland General Assembly must pass legislation requiring CCs to award degree-applicable college credits for Pell-eligible ELL/ESOL courses and ensure they are transferable to all public and private Maryland institutions of higher education as world language and humanities elective courses.

Best regards,
Margarita Gómez
Associate Professor of Literacy