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Baltimore County, Maryland

February 13, 2024

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
6 Bladen Street, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB395, the Credit For All Language Learning (CALL) Act, which focuses on Higher Education - Credit Eligibility and Transfer of Credits for English as a Second Language (ESL) Courses.

As a member of our community, and former ESL student and a firm believer in the value of linguistic diversity, I commend the efforts behind SB395 to recognize and acknowledge the language skills acquired through ESL courses. This legislation aligns with the principles of inclusivity, equal opportunity, and educational advancement for individuals who have pursued language learning as part of their higher education journey.

The CALL Act is instrumental in addressing the need for a standardized approach to evaluating and granting credit for ESL courses. It recognizes the importance of linguistic proficiency in our globalized world. It ensures that students who have invested time and effort in mastering a second language receive due credit for their accomplishments the same way that any other language is credited.

By supporting SB395, we encourage language learning and promote a more comprehensive and equitable credit transfer system within higher education. This legislation will undoubtedly empower individuals who have worked hard to enhance their language skills, opening doors to a broader range of academic and professional opportunities.

In conclusion, I urge you to support SB395, which would support the Credit for All Language Learning (CALL) Act. This initiative is a positive step towards fostering an inclusive and supportive educational environment for our diverse student population.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your continued commitment to advancing the quality and accessibility of education in our state.

Respectfully,

Maricruz Abarca