



TESTIMONY SB0538
COMMUNITY COLLEGE TUITION AND RESIDENCY WAIVERS – FUNDING

Bill Sponsor: Senator Guzzone

Committee: Appropriations

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0538 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This bill is very forward-looking. It allows for community college tuition waivers for in-state residents who are studying in professions where there is a shortage of graduates, such as in teaching or nursing. It also supports residents in need, such as foster care and homeless youths, people with disabilities, the elderly, active-duty veterans, and children of public safety employees.

These are all groups of people that we believe the state should offer these benefits to. It will allow them all to contribute to a stronger future for the state. It's an investment that we should make.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.