

HB 96- SUPPORT

Victoria Joya
Student, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Victoriajoyae@gmail.com, 407-968-8737

HB 96 – SUPPORT
“Education - High School Graduation Requirements - Application”

House Ways and Means Committee
January 20, 2021

Good afternoon,

My name is Victoria Joya Euceda. I am an MCPS alumni from Watkins Mill High School. I am currently a third year student at UMBC studying Geography and Environmental Systems and I plan to pursue my Ph.D after graduation.

I joined College Tracks in high school for support and to gain knowledge on the process of applying to higher education. Growing up as a first generation and low income student there were no discussions on the process of applying to higher education at home. My father was an immigrant who came to this country to work and never learned about the opportunities of higher education.

Without applying for Financial aid through FAFSA I would have not been able to afford going to college. Being in CollegeTracks in high school gave me the support that was not available at home since there was a language barrier and no one in my family has ever attended college. The process was very daunting to me and my parents but with help I submitted FAFSA which allowed me to have the financial aid I needed to attend college.

I believe that it is essential for seniors in highschool to apply for financial aid. Without financial aid I would have not been able to afford going to college and I would have been stuck in a path that was not meant for me. Many students who share similar backgrounds to me, worry about the affordability of higher education. I hope that if more students have access to financial aid these fears can be eased and allow them to see the possibility of attending college. The only way for them to see these possibilities is by applying to financial aid.

Thank you,

Victoria Joya Euceda