

Committee: Appropriations  
Testimony on: HB1098  
Position: Favorable

3 March 2023

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and the members of the Appropriations Committee,

As a college educator, I support HB1098, which establishes better conditions for English language learners across Maryland's schools.

Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you. My name is Dr. Robert K. Chester and I respectfully request a favorable vote on HB1098.

I am a faculty member at UMD College Park, where for the past twenty years I have been teaching in the American Studies Department and (since 2010) in the US Latina/o Studies Program.

In this role, I have taught hundreds of Latine students, many of whom had some form of interaction with ESOL programs in Maryland schools. Their reflections on this experience are almost without exception negative, with students reporting a sense of alienation, frustration, and exclusion associated with learning English as a second language.

It is thus my belief that the changes proposed by this bill will help a great many students to learn and to feel included while doing so.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on HB1098.

Thank you,

*Dr. Robert K. Chester, Senior Lecturer, American Studies and US Latina/o Studies,  
Univ. of Maryland, College Park*

