

Oral Testimony
Dulce Guerrero

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 454:
Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants**

- Good afternoon. I'm speaking today on behalf of the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, in my capacity as the organization's State Policy Associate.
- The Presidents' Alliance is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that brings over 550 college and university presidents together on the immigration issues that impact higher education. We work to advance just, forward-looking immigration policies and practices that are consistent with our academic values of equity.
- I'm present today to express our view that House Bill 454, a bill to expand access to Health occupational licensure for all Maryland residents, is in the best interest of the state.
- Maryland is home to almost 10,000 undocumented students enrolled in higher education. Many of these individuals have lived in Maryland for many years. The state has already invested in these students' k-12 education.
- Now these students are pursuing careers in the healthcare field and other professions that require licensure. House Bill 454 would allow these students to obtain the licensure they need to practice in the state they consider their home.
- Maryland should recognize its investment and allow these individuals to reach their full economic potential by allowing them to obtain the licensure they need to practice in their professions.
- Individuals who are able to obtain their professional licensure are more likely to remain in Maryland to work and live in the state. Therefore, the taxes they pay, the money they spend in the local economy, and the jobs they create all will benefit the state's overall economy.
- Provided that these individuals meet all professional requirements, their immigration status should not impede them from obtaining an occupational license in the state of Maryland. Thank you so much.