

## **Written Testimony In Favor of SB637 - Brian Kramer**

Dear Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

I hope this finds you well. My name is Brian Kramer and I am a social studies teacher for Montgomery County Public Schools. I write to you today to express my strong support for SB637, which would expand college opportunities for so many of my students and neighbors. This bill would expand the progress made many years ago in giving a helping hand to immigrant communities in Maryland, while helping these families with college affordability.

I graduated from Northwood High School in Silver Spring, which had many students that benefited from Maryland's wisdom to pass the Dream Act. Many of my friends would not have been able to attend college in a two or four year capacity were it not for the Maryland Dream Act. This bill would expand these opportunities to immigrants seeking to call Maryland home, while immensely benefiting our state in the process through diversified neighborhoods, cultural enrichment, an expansion in tax revenues, a better labor force, and so much more.

As a high school teacher, the number one barrier to college access that I hear is cost. This cost cannot be understated for families that live in precarious situations due to having to uplift their lives to find safety and opportunity in our state, yet these families also benefit the most from access to higher education. Education is a vital social good that creates a healthier society, but is also an incredibly important economic engine for our state as well. I cannot overstate the positive impacts that this legislation would have on the Montgomery County community enough.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of SB637. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Kind regards,  
Brian Kramer (District 20)

[bkramer5508@gmail.com](mailto:bkramer5508@gmail.com)