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BILL NO.: **SB 637**

TITLE: Higher Education – Undocumented Students – Out-of-State
Tuition Exemption Eligibility

SPONSOR: Senators Brooks and Hettleman

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 28, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** SB 637 – Higher Education – Undocumented Students – Out-of-State Tuition Exception Eligibility. This legislation would decrease from 3 years to 1 year the number of years an individual or the individual's parents or guardians must file taxes before the academic year for eligibility to receive in-state tuition.

Allowing undocumented graduates of Maryland high schools to pay in-state tuition sooner will provide a powerful incentive for these students to complete high school and go on to obtain a college degree. According to the 2015-19 American Community Survey, there are more than 16,000 undocumented children under 16 living in Maryland. Maryland can best position itself for future success and set a course for economic growth and wealth-creation by removing barriers and providing better access to higher education for all our kids – native-born and immigrant.

At the Community College of Baltimore County, recently arrived undocumented students pay \$372 per college credit, while students who are eligible for the Maryland DREAM Act pay \$122. Their families live, work, and contribute socially, culturally, and economically to this state. In 2019, undocumented families living in Baltimore County paid \$22.7 million in state and local taxes in addition to \$30.8 million in federal taxes.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 637 from the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, director of Government Affairs, at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.