



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 0207
HIGHER EDUCATION—UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS
OUT-OF-STATE TUITION EXEMPTION ELIGIBILITY
FAVORABLE**

TO: Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair, Delegate Mark S. Chang, Vice Chair and the members of the Appropriations Committee

FROM: Rev. Linda K. Boyd, Co-Chair, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Diocese of Maryland

DATE: January 21, 2025

We all know that the ability to obtain a higher education improves the ability to be self-supporting and to be a contributing member of society. Undocumented students face difficult challenges such as language barriers, bias against immigrants. They also face the problem of tuition payments. Giving in-state tuition can help undocumented students graduate from high school and college which can lead to higher incomes and tax contributions.

Providing in-state tuition can help undocumented students contribute to Maryland's economy and the U.S. economy. In-state tuition can help lower the dropout rate among youth and encourage postsecondary education, thus helping the society at large.

This Bill simply lowers the number of years that a Maryland tax return must be filed from 3 years to 2 years, in order to qualify for in-state tuition.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland urges a favorable vote.