



Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
Testimony of
Gloria Aparicio Blackwell, chair, Montgomery College Board of Trustees
January 22, 2025

SB268 - Higher Education – Undocumented Students – Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility

POSITION: Favorable

Chair Feldman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Montgomery College and our more than 45,000 students.

Senator Feldman and Senator Kagan, you know well the impact of Montgomery College (MC) on our county. Without a doubt, each member of this committee knows the value of higher education for Maryland residents—how it opens doors to opportunity so they can thrive. At MC, we understand that access to postsecondary education is key, and affordable tuition is critical.

Montgomery College strongly supports Senate Bill 268- Higher Education - Undocumented Students - Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility. MC is a Minority Serving Institution, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving Institution, and Maryland’s first Hispanic Serving Institution—designations made by the United States government. The College serves students from 157 countries of origin. In fact, I am a proud MC alumnus originally from Venezuela. We have a keen understanding of the importance of providing residents with access to postsecondary education to open doors to opportunity, regardless of country of origin or immigration status. In fact, Montgomery College was a leader and partner in the effort to make the Maryland Dream Act a reality. Every young person in our community deserves the opportunity to succeed—to pursue the education they need to be ready for in-demand careers so they and their families can thrive.

The Maryland Dream Act was an important step, but there is still much more we can do to break down barriers to access. Reducing the tax return requirement to two years, as SB268 calls for, is an important next step to provide all residents, our neighbors, with access to high quality education and training that leads to credentials of economic value, which are key to a robust community.

This effort will benefit families and communities, our state’s workforce and economy, and help us all build a stronger Maryland.

Montgomery College asks the committee to submit a favorable report for SB268.

