

# **SB268\_Ann Rubin\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: ANNA RUBIN

Position: FAV

**SB268\_AnnaRubin\_FAV**

**Anna Rubin, Columbia MD 21045**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 268:**

TO: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Dr. Anna Rubin, Emerita Prof.. UMBC

As a constituent I encourage you as a member of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to vote in favor of HB207/SB268 - Higher Education - Undocumented Students - Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility – that will reduce the number of years for which an individual or the individual's parent or guardian must file taxes to be eligible to receive an out-of-state tuition exemption.

Since its implementation, the Maryland Dream Act has had a profound impact on the state's undocumented student population and the broader community. Some notable outcomes include: The availability of in-state tuition rates has led to a surge in enrollment among undocumented students at Maryland's public colleges and universities. This increase in enrollment not only benefits the students but also enriches the campus community by fostering greater diversity and Inclusion. By enabling more students to pursue higher education, the Maryland Dream Act has also contributed to the state's economy. Graduates who benefit from the Act are better equipped to enter the workforce, secure higher-paying jobs, and contribute to the state's tax base. This, in turn, helps to strengthen Maryland's economy and improve the overall quality of life for its residents.

The Dream Act has helped to bridge the gap between undocumented students and their documented peers, promoting a sense of belonging and acceptance within the community. As these students achieve academic success and become active participants in society, they serve as role models and advocates for future generations of immigrants.

Jewish tradition emphasizes assisting all members of the community to receive quality education and to assist those with less resources to be helped by the greater community.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Anna Rubin  
Emerita Prof. UMBC

## **SB268\_Brooks.pdf**

Uploaded by: Benjamin Brooks

Position: FAV

**BENJAMIN BROOKS**  
*Legislative District 10*  
Baltimore County

Education, Energy, and the  
Environment Committee  
Energy Subcommittee

Chair, Joint Electric Universal  
Service Program Workgroup



**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

*Annapolis Office*  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 303  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3606 • 301-858-3606  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3606  
Benjamin.Brooks@senate.state.md.us

*District Office*  
Windsor Mill Office  
8419 Liberty Road, Suite B  
Windsor Mill, Maryland 21244  
410-496-4037

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB268**  
**Higher Education – Undocumented Students – Out-of-State Tuition**  
**Exemption Eligibility**

Education, Energy and the Environment Committee  
January 22, 2024

Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on SB0268, Higher Education - Undocumented Students - Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility. The purpose of this bill is to expand access to higher education for undocumented students by adjusting the tax return requirements for in-state tuition eligibility from three years of returns to two years.

In 2011, the General Assembly passed the Maryland Dream Act, which allows undocumented students graduating from our state's high schools and community colleges to qualify for in-state tuition rates. In 2018, this legislature reaffirmed that decision by extending considerations to undocumented students allowing them to apply and receive certain state-based aid, by passing the Jill Wrigley Memorial Scholarship Expansion Act. Yet undocumented students are not enrolling in higher education institutions at the rates lawmakers envisioned. Every year, Maryland graduates about 2,000 undocumented students and it is estimated that 10,395 undocumented students are enrolled in Maryland higher education institutions. However, at the 15 Maryland community colleges at which the nonresident tuition exemption was used, the largest number of students to benefit from the nonresident tuition exemption were enrolled during the Fall 2023 semester; 511 students. Further, at the 9 Maryland public four-year institutions at which the nonresident tuition exemption was used, the largest number of students to benefit from the nonresident tuition exemption were enrolled during the Fall 2023 semester; 262 students.

Current law requires undocumented families to be tax-paying Marylanders for at least three years. This requirement presents a substantial barrier to students who are otherwise eligible for the tuition rate exemption but cannot provide the previous three years of Maryland tax returns. Most states base in-state tuition eligibility on where a student went to high school, not immigration status. 24 states and the District of Columbia provide in-state tuition to the states' undocumented students. 18 states and DC also provide access to state financial aid. Of the 24 states, only Maryland and Virginia have a tax requirement impeding undocumented students to receive both state aid and in-state tuition. However, Virginia only requires two years of state income tax returns while Maryland requires three.

Undocumented students work equally as hard, if not harder than any other student. Thirteen years ago, the legislature took measures to provide them with an equal pathway to higher education by passing the Dream Act. The data we have now makes it clear this pathway is incomplete. We must make adjustments to secure this step so that undocumented students do not continue to slip through the cracks. Our state's undocumented students deserve a truly equal opportunity to contribute to our nation's progress.

For these reasons, I am requesting a favorable report on SB268.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin F. Brooks". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, with a distinct loop at the end of the last name.

Benjamin Brooks

# **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB268.pdf**

Uploaded by: Emmanuelle O'Grady

Position: FAV

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB268**

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

**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Date:** January 21, 2025

**Position:** Support

Good afternoon Senator Brooks and Delegates of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

My name is Emma O'Grady, and I am a school social worker with Baltimore City Public Schools. I work with newcomer immigrant and refugee students across the district, supporting their academic and social-emotional needs. These students embody resilience, kindness, empathy, and an unwavering dedication to achieving their goals. They have much to contribute to our communities and our state, but systemic barriers stand in their way.

Currently, students and their families must have filed taxes for three consecutive years prior to the student's high school graduation to qualify for in-state tuition and state financial aid. While I understand the intent behind requiring tax contributions for state programs, this standard unfairly disadvantages undocumented families. Unlike U.S. citizens, who can demonstrate intent to reside in Maryland for just 12 consecutive months to access the same benefits, undocumented students face a higher and inequitable threshold.

Many of these families face significant challenges that make meeting this requirement unattainable. Parents who are new to the country or children who could not work before the age of 16 have no way of meeting this rule, regardless of how much they want to contribute. This policy shuts the door on their future, rendering higher education financially out of reach and limiting their ability to fully participate in and contribute to Maryland's workforce and economy.

We should not hold these students to a higher standard. These inequities are harmful not only to them but to the future prosperity of our state. For these reasons, I urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB268 to ensure that all hardworking students have equitable access to the opportunities they deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Emma O'Grady  
School Social Worker  
Baltimore City Public Schools

# **HB207 SB268 Testimony - Erinn Camp Mansour.pdf**

Uploaded by: Erinn Camp Mansour

Position: FAV



## **Support HB207/SB268 – Higher Education - Undocumented Students - Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility**

As a constituent, I encourage you as a member of the Appropriations Committee/Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to vote in favor of HB207/SB268 - Higher Education - Undocumented Students - Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility. This bill reduces the number of years for which an individual or the individual's parent or guardian must file taxes to be eligible to receive an out-of-state tuition exemption.

Since its implementation, the Maryland Dream Act has had a profound impact on the state's undocumented student population and the broader community. Some notable outcomes include:

- The availability of in-state tuition rates has led to a surge in enrollment among undocumented students at Maryland's public colleges and universities. This increase in enrollment not only benefits the students but also enriches the campus community by fostering greater diversity and inclusion.
- By enabling more students to pursue higher education, the Maryland Dream Act has also contributed to the state's economy. Graduates who benefit from the Act are better equipped to enter the workforce, secure higher-paying jobs, and contribute to the state's tax base. This, in turn, helps to strengthen Maryland's economy and improve the overall quality of life for its residents.
- The Dream Act has helped to bridge the gap between undocumented students and their documented peers, promoting a sense of belonging and acceptance within the community. As these students achieve academic success and become active participants in society, they serve as role models and advocates for future generations of immigrants.

My faith community, the Religious Society of Friends (or Quakers), includes more than 2000 Friends (Quakers) and more than 20 Meetings (or local faith communities) in Maryland, including my Meeting, the Patapsco Friends Meeting in Ellicott City. Quakers have existed in Maryland for more than 350 years and have a long history of advocating for our beliefs, often called “testimonies,” including the belief in equality and dedication to community. Although I do not speak for any Quaker other than myself, I am led to share with you that this bill reflects my belief in full and free access to education for all, no exceptions.

The expansion of Dream Act eligibility is a clear expression of my experience of Quaker testimonies, and a value that is clearly documented in Article 43 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights that encourages “the diffusion of knowledge and virtue, the extension of a judicious system of general education, the promotion of literature, the arts, sciences, agriculture, commerce and manufactures, and the general melioration of the condition of the People.”

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony. Please vote in favor of HB207/SB268.

Your Friend,

Erinn Camp Mansour

# **MD Catholic Conference\_SB 268\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Garrett O'Day

Position: FAV



**January 22, 2025**

**SB 268**

**Higher Education - Undocumented Students - Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility**

**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

**Position: SUPPORT**

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 268. The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

In 2019, Senate Bill 537 of that year altered the circumstances under which some individuals, including undocumented immigrants, would be exempt from paying the out-of-state tuition rate at Maryland public institutions of higher education, making them eligible to pay an equivalent rate to the resident tuition rate at a public senior higher education institution. The Conference supported that legislation and now supports the amendment proposed by SB 268.

Senate Bill 268 would build upon that exemption, affording students the ability to pay in-state tuition where their parent or legal guardians have filed a Maryland income tax return in the preceding two-year period. Current law requires a three-year period of state income tax filings in order to receive in-state tuition rates.

The Church's care of and concern for immigrants directly flows out of our belief that every immigrant is endowed with God given dignity and ought to be treated with love and respect. In fact, "The Church supports the human rights of all people and offers them pastoral care, education, and social services, no matter what the circumstances of entry into this country, and it works for the respect of the human dignity of all especially those who find themselves in desperate circumstances" (2000, *Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity, A Statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops*).

By making a college education more accessible and affordable to Maryland youth, including undocumented youth, we are able to provide them with greater opportunities – opportunities for higher education, to acquire job skills, and to have a better chance of supporting themselves and their families in the future. The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 268.

## **SB 268**

Uploaded by: Kristina Curley

Position: FAV



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 200 · Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
Phone 410-841-3374 | 301-858-3374 · 800-492-7122 Ext. 3374 · Fax 410-841-3342 | 301-858-3342  
latino.caucus@house.state.md.us · www.mdlatinocaucus.org

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TO: Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: January 21, 2025  
RE: SB 268- Higher Education- Undocumented Students-  
Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility

### **The MLLC SB268 - Higher Education – Undocumented Students – Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility**

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of SB268.

According to data from the Higher Ed Immigration Portal, first and second-generation immigrant students comprise nearly 40% of all students enrolled in higher education in the State.<sup>1</sup> However, among Latinos ages 18 to 34, only 19% are enrolled in higher education.<sup>2</sup> A primary systemic barrier to accessing higher education is the exorbitant costs, especially when students who reside in the state do not qualify for in-state tuition.

To eliminate barriers, this bill decreases the number of years (from 3-years to 2-years) an individual or individual's parents or guardian must file taxes before an academic year to be eligible for the out-of-state tuition exemption associated with tuition at public institutions of higher education. By accelerating the eligibility qualification for out-of-state tuition exemptions, this bill expands access to affordable education for Latino and immigrant students across the State.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on SB268.

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<sup>1</sup> [Higher Ed Immigration Portal](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Excelencia in Education](#)

## **SB268\_MSEA\_Lamb\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lauren Lamb

Position: FAV

**FAVORABLE**  
**Senate Bill 268**  
**Higher Education - Undocumented Students - Out-of-State Tuition Exemption**  
**Eligibility**

**Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment**  
**January 22, 2025**

**Lauren Lamb**  
**Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 268, which would reduce the number of years an individual or the individual's parent or guardian must file taxes before the academic year to be eligible to receive an out-of-state tuition exemption.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

As public school educators, our charge is to teach and guide each and every student, regardless of immigration status, income, or background. We firmly believe that all students should have the opportunity to continue working toward their career goals after they graduate high school, which for many means having access to postsecondary studies. This legislation would rightly expand that access by making more Maryland high school graduates eligible for in-state tuition at state colleges and universities.

We were vocal supporters of the Maryland Dream Act during its initial passage, and we continue to champion policies that promote equitable access to higher education. Adjusting the in-state tuition eligibility requirement for taxes filed from 3 years to 2 years will make this policy available to a greater number of hardworking Maryland students, including those who are undocumented immigrants, and ensures access for those who may not have been aware of the requirements earlier in their high school career.

**We urge the Committee to issue a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 268.**

## **SB268 Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Madelin Martinez

Position: FAV



**Senate Bill 268**  
**Higher Education - Undocumented Students - Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility**  
Appropriations  
January 22, 2025  
**Support**

**Catholic Charities of Baltimore supports SB268**, which would standardize for all residents of Maryland the number of years an individual, or their parent or guardian, must file a Maryland income tax return prior to the academic year to qualify for an exemption from paying out-of-state tuition under the Maryland Dream Act, changing the requirement from three years to two.

For a century, Catholic Charities has provided care and services to improve the lives of Marylanders in need. We accompany Marylanders as they age with dignity, support their pursuit of employment and career advancement, heal from trauma and addiction, achieve economic independence, prepare for educational success, and welcome immigrant neighbors into Maryland communities. As Maryland's second largest human service providers, we are deeply committed to helping those who need it most.

Since 1963, our Esperanza Center has been a trusted resource for immigrants in Maryland, offering services such as education, healthcare, immigration legal assistance, family reunification, and community support. Every year, we serve thousands of immigrants, guiding them as they build new lives in Maryland.

In alignment with our mission, expanding access to affordable higher education is critical for the personal and professional growth of Maryland's youth, including undocumented students and their families who are residents of Maryland and who are contributing to the economy of our State. Providing access to in-state tuition enables these young people to acquire higher education, develop job skills, and contribute to their families and communities.

The current three-year tax return requirement creates a significant barrier for many immigrant families. This requirement prevents motivated and talented students from qualifying for in-state tuition, thereby limiting their educational opportunities. SB268 addresses this issue by reducing the tax return requirement from three years to two, removing a major obstacle for many students and bringing the requirement into line with other state residents.

**For these reasons, Catholic Charities of Baltimore respectfully urges the committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 268.**

Submitted By: Madelin Martinez, Assistant Advocacy Director

# **Lambrinou Testimony Support SB268.pdf**

Uploaded by: Marina Lambrinou

Position: FAV

## Support SB268/HB207 – Higher Education - Undocumented Students - Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility

Dear Senator Feldman, Chair, Senator Kagan, Vice-Chair, and all members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

As a constituent I encourage you as a member of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee to vote in favor of SB268/HB207 - Higher Education - Undocumented Students - Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility – that will reduce the number of years for which an individual or the individual’s parent or guardian must file taxes to be eligible to receive an out-of-state tuition exemption.

Since its implementation, the Maryland Dream Act has had a profound impact on the state’s undocumented student population and our broader community. Some notable outcomes include: The availability of in-state tuition rates leading to a surge in enrollment among undocumented students at Maryland’s public colleges and universities. This increase in enrollment not only benefits the students but also enriches the campus community by fostering greater diversity and inclusion.

It also allows for upward social mobility and the chance for these individuals to better contribute to our state economy. Graduates who benefit from the Act are better equipped to enter the workforce, secure higher-paying jobs, and contribute to the state’s tax base. This, in turn, helps to strengthen Maryland’s economy and improve the overall quality of life for its residents.

The Dream Act has helped to bridge the gap between undocumented students and their documented peers, cultivating a sense of belonging and acceptance within the community. As these students achieve academic success and become active participants in society, they serve as role models and advocates for future generations of immigrants.

The expansion of Dream Act eligibility is a clear expression of our American creed and a value that is clearly documented in Article 43 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights that encourages “the diffusion of knowledge and virtue, the extension of a judicious system of general education, the promotion of literature, the arts, sciences, agriculture, commerce and manufactures, and the general melioration of the condition of the People.”

With an incoming federal administration bent on rolling back civil rights and immigrant rights, Maryland can and should take a leading role in affirming these rights and upholding the value of every Maryland resident’s humanity, no matter their background, race, gender, sexual orientation, ability level, gender identity, and, yes, immigration status.

Please vote in favor of SB268.

Thank you.

Dr. Marina Lambrinou.