

**Re: Support for HB0325 - Adult Education - High School Diploma by Examination - Requirements and Study**

**Gabriela Argoti-Fernandez**

Rockville, MD, 20853

Gabriela.Argoti@gmail.com

301-661-2670

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**Maryland General Assembly**

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB0325, introduced by Delegate Wims, which aims to ensure that the GED certification exam is fully provided in Spanish. This legislation is a critical step toward creating equitable opportunities for our diverse community and fostering a stronger, more inclusive economy in Maryland.

The availability of the GED in Spanish is essential for many members of the Hispanic and Latino community who are eager to pursue their education and advance their careers but face language barriers. These individuals are hardworking members of our society who contribute significantly to our economy and culture. Providing the GED in Spanish will empower them to obtain high school equivalency credentials, access higher-paying job opportunities, and continue their professional growth. When more people are able to earn their GED, they gain access to better job opportunities, higher wages, and the ability to contribute more effectively to their communities. This not only uplifts families but also fosters a more inclusive workforce, where diversity is celebrated as a strength. Removing these barriers allows individuals to thrive and pursue higher education or vocational training, creating a ripple effect of economic benefits that extend to businesses and the broader community.

Ultimately, enabling people to overcome language challenges in education strengthens the backbone of our state's economy, building a workforce that is adaptable, skilled, and diverse. It ensures Maryland remains competitive in an ever-changing global market and empowers our communities to contribute fully to the state's ongoing growth and success. By passing this bill, we are investing in our people, our economy, and the shared future we all strive to create.

I urge you to pass HB0325 and make the GED certification exam accessible to all Marylanders, regardless of their primary language. This small but vital change will have a profound impact on countless lives, uplifting families and communities across our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require further input.

Sincerely,

Gaby Argoti-Fernandez, *CEO & Founder- Community Leader - Published Author*

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