

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

**Date:** January 27, 2025

**Position:** Support

**Maryland General Assembly**

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Stephanie Landaverde, and I am a first-generation college graduate who recently secured my first full-time job. I am writing to express my wholehearted support for HB0325, introduced by Delegate Wims, which seeks to make the GED certification exam available in Spanish, with the potential to expand to additional languages in the future. This bill is not just an opportunity—it is a crucial step toward unlocking success and economic mobility for Marylanders who are currently being left behind due to language barriers.

Passing HB0325 will empower individuals to pursue their dreams on their own terms, without being hindered by their proficiency in English. These individuals will feel more confident and motivated to continue learning English, especially as they seek employment or further educational opportunities. This bill would provide families with the tools they need to break free from low-wage jobs and move toward building a better future for themselves and their communities. It will offer a chance to those who, despite their intelligence, work ethic, and drive, are currently denied the opportunity to prove their abilities due to the language of the GED.

Language is the heartbeat of culture and identity. For countless Marylanders, their native language is at the core of who they are, shaping the way they think, dream, and learn. By offering the GED in multiple languages, we are sending a powerful message that we celebrate our cultural and linguistic diversity as strengths, not barriers. It's a message that says Maryland values its immigrant communities and is committed to ensuring that every resident has the chance to succeed, no matter their background.

I strongly urge you to support and pass HB0325, ensuring that the GED certification exam is accessible to all Marylanders. This bill is not just a step toward educational equity—it's a lifeline that will open doors to countless opportunities and contribute to a more prosperous and inclusive Maryland for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Stephanie Landaverde