

Written Testimony in Support of HB 1530

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I submit this testimony in support of HB1530. My name is Julia Ellis, and I am a former Baltimore City Public Schools teacher and current anti-poverty advocate. During my years as a teacher, I saw firsthand the intelligence, drive, and desire to achieve among my immigrant students. Despite their difficult circumstances, my students, hailing from Central and South America, were deeply determined to pursue success through education—as were their hardworking, tax-paying parents.

The fact that so many of these students will miss the chance to attend college due to the burdensome tax documentation requirements currently in place is a tragedy. This barrier to higher education represents a loss not only to the immigrant community but also to the state of Maryland—the next great scientists, writers, public officials, and more are among the students being blocked from attending university because they lack three years of tax returns.

As an educator, advocate, and proud resident of Maryland, I urge the House to pass HB1530 and level the playing field for high school seniors seeking higher education.

Sincerely,

Julia Ellis