

Testimony on House Bill 1530 - Favorable

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

Appropriations Committee

March 11, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser and Members of the Committee,

I, Cynthia Sokolow of Howard County, MD, urge a vote in **favor of HB 1530**.

This bill removes the existing requirement that non US citizens can receive in-state public college tuition only if their parents can provide proof of tax payment over the past 5 years.

I have met undocumented college graduates living in Maryland. They arrived as toddlers through the DACA program, but have not been able to obtain the proper legal paperwork. Since graduation, they have become research scientists at Hopkins.

Our great state includes students from all over the world. They deserve to attend in-state public colleges and universities, if they wish. By passing HB 1530:

-Parents will be relieved of the burden of supplying 5 years' worth of paid taxes.

-Undocumented families can be more assured of the privacy they need now more than ever. Our current U.S. administration is targeting our immigrant neighbors in many states, and we rightfully fear Maryland is next on the list.

Let's continue to be proud of our state by ensuring access to higher education as well a safe environment to all Marylanders, regardless of their immigration status,

I urge the Appropriations Committee to issue **a favorable report on HB 1530**.

Thank you for your consideration and attention.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Sokolow
21042