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Written Testimony in Support of HB1530

To: Chair Ben Barnes, Vice Chair Anne R. Kaiser and Members of the Maryland House Appropriations Committee

From: Jessica Rosales, Baltimore City Schools Student

Hello, my name is Jessica Rosales, and I am a 10th grade student at Western High School in Baltimore City. From my first year at Western, Freshman year, till the middle of third quarter of Sophomore year, I have maintained my GPA above a 4.0. I am currently focused on maintaining my grades, playing sports, taking care of my 4 younger siblings at home, and looking after my 9 cats. I am submitting written testimony to support HB1530, which would remove the requirements that undocumented students must submit three years of their parents' tax returns to qualify for in-state tuition and federal loans.

Now, I am not an undocumented student since I was born in the United States, but I know that those who aren't, face a difficult situation when they try to apply for a higher education. Personally, I find it unfair and unjust for undocumented students to face an extra obstacle by submitting three years of their parents' tax returns just to qualify for in-state tuition and federal loans when documented students don't. Undocumented students deserve a fair chance to attend college because they haven't done anything wrong, and most of them constantly fight under pressure to follow their dreams to succeed for their parents who immigrated from their country to the United States. Once the bill is passed, undocumented students will get a fair chance to attend college just like a documented student, which would improve the lives of the parents and the students.

Once again, I am asking you all to please consider passing HB1530 so that we can give undocumented students a fair chance at higher education. And, I hope that undocumented students can also chase their dreams without facing difficult and extra obstacles, just because they were born in a different country.

Respectfully,

Jessica Rosales