

Leah Prandi-Abrams
300 Guilford Ave
Baltimore, MD 21218
828-773-5474
leah.prandi@gmail.com

Written Testimony in Support of HB1530

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

From: Leah Prandi-Abrams, Baltimore City Schools Teacher

Hello, my name is Leah Prandi-Abrams and I am a proud Baltimore City Schools parent and teacher (at Western High School). I have had the privilege of working with Baltimore City students for the past six years, and I care deeply about the futures of ALL students. 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.

No one's future should depend on their family's background or their immigration status. I've been teaching for 22 years- in Charlotte, New Orleans, and now in Baltimore. When I taught in New Orleans, I had several undocumented students who attended college and thrived with this opportunity that did not depend on their citizenship status. I want the same for my students here in Baltimore City. Students work hard throughout their academic career, and their future career goals are often contingent upon obtaining a college degree. As we all know, college tuition has continued to increase, and I believe that making college as affordable as possible should not be limited to affluent families. By passing HB1530, it would allow some of my hardest working students the option to attend college based solely on their merit, without cost being any more of a hindrance than it may already be.

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. Our students deserve the world, and by passing this bill, it will show that we truly believe this.

Respectfully,

Leah Prandi-Abrams