



**Testimony on House Bill 1530 – Favorable
HB1530 - Higher Education - Undocumented Students - Out-of-State Tuition Exemption**

House Appropriations Committee

March 11, 2026

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

Indivisible HoCoMD offers favorable testimony in support of **HB 1530-Higher Education – Undocumented Students – Out-of-State Tuition Exemption**.

Established in 2017 as part of the national Indivisible movement, Indivisible HoCoMD has more than 1,800 members focused on making our state safe, equitable, and welcoming for all residents. There are 49 Indivisible chapters in Maryland and over 2,500 nationwide.

HB1530 will expand in-state tuition eligibility for undocumented students by eliminating the requirement that a student or his parents/legal guardians show Maryland tax returns. Out-of-state tuition is significantly higher than in-state and creates a formidable barrier to undocumented students accessing higher education and a pathway to better jobs and sustainable well-paying careers.

The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future calls for equitable access to education for students of all racial and socioeconomic backgrounds. There are many benefits to this vision:

- Educating undocumented immigrants leads to higher earning potential and eventual increased state and local taxes.
- Providing undocumented immigrants with special training will help fill critical labor shortages in Maryland.
- Reducing barriers to higher education will reduce high-school dropouts and unemployment.
- Providing in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants aligns with Maryland’s values, honoring diversity, recognizing the worth of every resident, and including people of all backgrounds into our communities

For these reasons, Indivisible HoCoMD calls for a FAVORABLE response to HB1530.

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