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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

My name is John Bachman, and I am a high school teacher at Western High School in Baltimore City. I am currently in my 22nd year of teaching, including 16 years in Baltimore City Public Schools. During that time, I have also served as a robotics coach and have worked hard to build excitement and opportunity for students in STEM education.

I am writing to express my strong support for Maryland House Bill 1530, which would remove the requirement that undocumented students submit three years of their parents' tax returns in order to qualify for in-state tuition and federal loans.

I am still proud to be the first person in my family to attend college, graduating from the University of Maryland in 2001. Higher education opened doors for me that changed the trajectory of my life. While the skilled trades are essential and will continue to be in high demand, they often work hand in hand with engineers, designers, and other college graduates. Our workforce needs both pathways.

At my school, I have seen our student population become increasingly diverse. Many of these students are talented, motivated, and eager to pursue higher education. However, barriers like the current documentation requirements can prevent capable students from accessing the opportunities they have worked so hard to earn.

Passing Maryland House Bill 1530 would help ensure that all students who have grown up and studied in Maryland have a fair chance to continue their education and contribute to our communities.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to supporting all of Maryland's students.

Sincerely,  
John Bachman  
Western High School  
Baltimore City Public Schools