

**Written Testimony in Support of HB1530**  
**Higher Education - Undocumented Students - Out-of-State Tuition**  
**Exemption Eligibility**

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

**From:** Nate Golden: Baltimore City Schools Teacher

**A student's academic achievement should determine whether they can attend college, not their parents' documentation or tax filing status.**

As a high school teacher, I have witnessed firsthand how Maryland's tax documentation requirements for undocumented immigrants have prevented several hardworking, talented students from pursuing higher education. I have several more in my classroom who will face the same barrier unless Maryland changes the law.

**HB1530 levels the playing field. It does not give special treatment.**

HB1530 would simply eliminate some, but not all, of the additional requirements placed on undocumented students. Undocumented students would still be required to submit all the same documentation for loans and in-state tuition as documented students across the state.

**Current law prevents students *with* all the documentation from attending college.**

Even students who do have three years of their parents' tax returns must leap over bureaucratic hurdles to attend college. Undocumented students must first apply as out-of-state residents to Maryland universities. Then, if accepted, they remain classified as out-of-state students. To change that status, parents must file Form 129 with the Maryland Comptroller's Office to obtain three years of tax returns and must request a separate copy for each school their child was accepted to. Making things even more difficult, they must submit tax returns for the previous year, even if the taxes are not due yet. For example, students who are planning to attend in the fall of 2026 must submit tax returns for 2025. Yet, 2025 tax returns are not due until mid April. After a student obtains each set of tax returns, they must submit them in-person or via mail to each university.

At the same time, the student has to navigate the loan process, duplicating much of the same paperwork for the MHEC One App. The process is extremely difficult and students are often attempting to overcome this bureaucracy by working with parents who are not fluent in English.

**Change cannot wait.**

I urge this committee to act with urgency. Another year of waiting to act means another year of deserving students missing out on college.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nate Golden