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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: Jack Lewis, University of Maryland Doctoral Student

Hello, my name is Jack and I am a Doctoral Student and Graduate Worker at the University of Maryland. 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.

I am proud to have graduated from University of Maryland with a bachelor's degree in 2018, and now am back to pursue a PhD in Education Policy. Our state university has been an incredible opportunity for me to achieve higher education without exorbitant loans. I want that same opportunity for every future Terp, regardless of their parents' documentation status. We must remove the unfair barriers that prevent undocumented students from attending UMD with in-state tuition, even after they've been accepted. Each year we wait to implement this change means another group of qualified Maryland students will not be able to attend college.

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. As the cost of college grows ever higher, our public universities are an amazing resource for students across Maryland. I hope my undocumented neighbors will soon be welcome to pursue their education alongside me!

Respectfully,

Jack Lewis