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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:** Andy Renteria, Baltimore City Public Schools Teacher

I am submitting written testimony to support HB1530, which would remove the requirement that undocumented students must submit three years of their parents' tax returns to qualify for in-state tuition and federal loans.

Undocumented students already face many obstacles when seeking higher education. In addition to comparatively higher levels of stress, fear, and anxiety when applying for colleges due to their undocumented status, many of our students in the state of Maryland face significant financial limitations. I have personally witnessed many talented students, who grew up in Maryland and call our state home, end their journeys in education early or forego college completely because of this requirement. **HB1530 would remove just one obstacle in an attempt to level the playing field, immediately allowing many students to qualify for in-state tuition and keep their dreams alive.**

Under HB1530, undocumented students would still be required to submit the same documentation for loans and in-state tuition as documented students, so this is not about preferential treatment. This is simply about ending one bureaucratic hurdle in the way of the success of thousands of students—students who represent the future of our state. **Imagine the endless contributions that our undocumented students could make to the state of Maryland by simplifying their path toward qualifying for in-state tuition.**

Do not kick the can down the road. The time to act is now. I urge you to vote in favor of HB1530 so that we can give undocumented students a fair chance at higher education.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andy Renteria