

Jason Estes
3140 Keswick Road
(408) 316-3570
jmestes@bcps.k12.md.us

Written Testimony in Support of HB1530

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

From: Jason Estes, Baltimore Teachers Union

Hello, my name is Jason Estes and I am a teacher at Forest Park High School in Baltimore City. 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 understand that in the current political climate this is a tricky situation for politicians to address, however, if we don't put our energy towards giving our most ambitious and studious children a chance at college, what are we even doing? Some of our top graduating students every year are unable to attend college because they don't have the necessary tax returns to qualify for loans. These aren't criminals. These aren't unproductive members of society. These are incredible young people, who if given the chance, can change the world. Please give them the chance.

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. You have the power to change the future for our young people.

Respectfully,

Jason Estes