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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: Bryn Blanchard: Montgomery County Public Schools Teacher

Hello,

My name is Bryn Blanchard, and I've been a teacher in Montgomery County for the last 8 years. 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.

A student's academic achievement should determine whether they can attend college, not their parents' documentation or tax filing status. As a teacher at a Title 1 school, I have witnessed firsthand how Maryland's tax documentation requirements for undocumented immigrants have prevented several hardworking, talented students from pursuing higher education.

HB1530 does not give special treatment. It 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. The college application process for all students, regardless of documentation status, can be daunting and stress-inducing. Blocking this law would unjustly place more barriers on the academic futures of our students.

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.

Respectfully,
Bryn Blanchard