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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: Baltimore City Schools Student

Hello, my name is Alisson Castellanos Lima and I am a 9th grade student at Forest Park Highschool in Baltimore City. I had the great opportunity to take Ap Seminar and honors geometry in my freshman year since I took honors classes in middle school. My family is from Guatemala and we came to the United States looking for a better future, specifically, better education opportunities. I'm a self taught artist hoping that one day in the future I will attend Art School and become a professional artist. 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 support HB1530 because it means opportunity; many undocumented, visionary, academic focused students who dedicate their time to work hard will be able to seek higher education. I consider the tax requirement completely unfair because it is preventing many capable and skilled students from achieving their dreams and goals for the future. This means a lot to me because as an undocumented student, every day, I see many of my undocumented friends at school being demotivated and concerned for what future academic obstacles they will encounter for not meeting the tax and other requirements. Through every undocumented student, I see big but at the same time fragile dreams being faded like clouds in the horizon leaving hollow aches. The passing of HB1530 will guarantee students in Maryland immense hope and a secure chance to pursue higher education levels and opportunities.

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. Allow the unseen dreams of every kid gleam and be free.

Respectfully,
Alisson Castellanos Lima