

Emily Yu
138 N Duncan St. Baltimore, MD 21231
4847167294
emily@marylandchildalliance.org

Written Testimony in Support of HB1530

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

From: Emily Yu

Hello, my name is Emily Yu and I am a 9th grade English teacher at Western High School in Baltimore City. I work with plenty of immigrant students, which includes those who are undocumented. I am also a child of immigrants myself; my parents immigrated to the U.S. from China in the 90s and I grew up as an American citizen that had access to the public school system throughout my entire childhood through college. 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 was given access to the American Dream simply because my parents were some of the lucky few to gain the opportunity to move to the US permanently. Today, as the number of immigrants in America rises, the process for permanent residency becomes more and more difficult to navigate. I know students who have been waiting for over a decade for permanent residency, and are thus forced to live in constant fear of deportation as well as being denied rights and opportunities, such as in-state tuition and state loans. If a student is motivated, dedicated, and successful enough to navigate through the hurdles of the American education system and get accepted into a public university in Maryland, they should be eligible for in-state tuition. We should be providing undocumented students with an accessible pathway to higher education so that they can not only achieve their academic and career goals, but so they can also contribute to our state and country meaningfully and to their fullest potential.

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. During a political climate that is already placing immense pressure and hurdles on our immigrant communities, you have the chance to eliminate some barriers and offer hope and dignity to our undocumented students.

Respectfully,
Emily Yu