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TO: Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
Delegate Anne R. Kaiser, Vice Chair
Appropriations Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Asian American and Pacific-Islander Caucus

DATE: 3/10/2026

RE: HB1530 - Higher Education - Undocumented Students - Out-of-State
Tuition Exemption Eligibility

**The AAPI Caucus supports HB1530 - Higher Education - Undocumented Students -
Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility**

The Maryland Legislative Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus represents AAPI communities in the General Assembly and works to advance their legislative priorities. The Caucus respectfully supports HB1530 to expand access to higher education for undocumented students.

HB1530 repeals the requirement that an individual or the individual's parent or guardian file taxes in order to qualify for an out-of-state tuition exemption at a public institution of higher education. By removing this requirement, the bill helps ensure that more students who meet other eligibility criteria are able to access in-state tuition rates.

For Asian American and Pacific Islander students and families, this change matters. Many undocumented students have grown up in Maryland, attended Maryland schools, and seek to continue their education and contribute to the state's economy and communities. Yet unnecessary administrative barriers can place higher education out of reach. Removing the tax filing requirement is a practical way to reduce barriers for students whose families may face complex circumstances while still preserving access to educational opportunity.

HB1530 is a meaningful step toward greater fairness and educational access in Maryland. By expanding eligibility for out-of-state tuition exemptions, the bill will help more students pursue higher education, build stable futures, and contribute their talents to our state.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Asian-American and Pacific-Islander Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB1530.