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Written Testimony in Support of HB1530

To: Chair Feldman and the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

From: , Baltimore City Schools Student

Hello, my name is Diana. I am a senior in a Maryland public school. I have over a 4.0 GPA, I have been in the debate club for two years. I have been accepted to multiple colleges. I am submitting a 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.

As I began to apply for colleges I had trouble myself to apply for in-state tuition. My parents had to work extra in order to complete the three years of tax returns that are required in order for me to receive financial aid. As an immigrant myself this bill is important for me because I had to do more extra steps in order to start the process of seeing if I could get financial aid to be able to afford college. This extra step is unfair for undocumented students because in many cases immigrants students work so hard, and have excellent grades throughout their high school years but some of them decide to not go to college due to this step because their parents don't earn enough money to pay all the three years of tax required. This bill is important for me because it would help future students, and it would allow them to get financial aid, and more students would consider going to college. This bill would impact all those students who think that they can't afford college or that they can't go to college because of their parents having to pay those years of taxes, and by lowering the years required it would open the possibility for more students to follow their dreams and to continue their studies in college.

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. And to get more undocumented students the opportunity to follow their dreams and be successful by having to send less required years of tax from their parents.

Respectfully,  
Diana Ramirez