



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

HB1530 Higher Education – Undocumented Students – Out-Of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility

POSITION: FAVORABLE

By: Linda T. Kohn, President

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The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD), a nonpartisan organization, supports policies that provide an equitable and quality education for all. Accordingly, the LWVMD supports HB1530, which extends postsecondary educational opportunity to the state's undocumented students.

HB1530 removes the requirement for resident undocumented students to have a parent or guardian file Maryland income tax returns for the past three years in order to be eligible to receive an out-of-state tuition exemption at a Maryland public institution of higher education. Documentation of this tax filing is a qualifying condition for applying for the reduced rates equivalent to in-state or in-county tuition.

HB1530 recognizes that the current three-year requirement poses a significant obstacle for many immigrant families and students. Many undocumented students who graduated from Maryland high schools and aspired to higher education have confronted a significant hurdle if their parents lacked three years of tax records. This barrier has resulted in talented and motivated young people being denied the option of in-state tuition, hindering their access to higher education. HB1530 removes this financial hurdle and makes it easier for these students to enroll in a Maryland public higher education institution at in-state tuition rates.

The bill also clarifies how resident undocumented students may demonstrate continued Maryland residency to retain their in-state tuition status. Instead of relying solely on tax findings, institutions would be able to accept other official documentation to verify residency as determined by the institution.

HB1530 is proposed in the context of federal actions governing in-state tuition for undocumented students that result from Executive Order (EO) entitled "Protecting

American Communities from Criminal Aliens” (April 28, 2025). The EO prohibits a policy offering in-state college tuition eligibility to resident undocumented students, but not to nonresident citizen students. Its premise is that it is illegal to offer lower tuition rates to undocumented students if out-of-state citizens also cannot benefit from this policy.¹ With HB1530, Maryland has an opportunity to extend the in-state tuition benefit to undocumented students, and to help ensure their access to postsecondary studies.

HB1530 extends opportunities for undocumented students to pursue higher education. The bill removes what is an existing financial obstacle for many immigrant families and students by eliminating the prerequisite to document three years of tax filings.

For these reasons, LWVMD supports a **Favorable** report on HB1530.

¹Maryland Legislature Issue Papers 2026. Department of Legislative Services, Office of Policy Analysis, Maryland General Assembly. Issue Papers—2026 session (Dec, 2025), p,75.
https://dls.maryland.gov/pubs/prod/RecurRpt/Issue_Papers_2026_Legislative_Session.pdf