



Advocates for Children and Youth improves the lives and experiences of Maryland's children and youth by advancing policies and programs across multiple issue areas that tackle racial disparities and improve outcomes to ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive. www.acy.org

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee

In SUPPORT of

House Bill 118- Higher Education - Senatorial and Delegate Scholarships - In-State Tuition

Shamoyia Gardiner, Education Policy Senior Associate, Advocates for Children and Youth
January 29, 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 118- Higher Education – Senatorial and Delegate Scholarships – In-State Tuition. Advocates for Children and Youth (ACY) supports this bill.

There are more than 10,000 DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipients living in Maryland¹. Of those, more than 8,000 are employed² and they contribute more than \$40 million to state and local tax revenue³. The Center for American Progress report, “Removing Barriers to Higher Education for Undocumented Students”, highlights the many systemic barriers to higher education faced by undocumented youth and detailed recommendations for addressing the needs of DREAMers.

Undocumented youth face inadequate mentoring, realized fears about sharing information related to legal statuses, and high rates of poverty, all of which conspire to decrease their chances of pursuing and completing a post-secondary degree. **In Maryland alone, 42% of dependent DACA recipients live in families with household incomes at least 200% below the federal poverty line.** The 2012 referendum on the Maryland DREAM Act made Maryland voters the first in the nation to approve a state DREAM act through the direct action, but many challenges remain. Though Maryland currently offers in-state tuition rates to qualifying DREAMers, they, much like citizens, will require financial assistance to successfully complete their programs of study.

HB 118 would also make this population of students eligible for Senatorial and Delegate Scholarships. **We urge this committee to issue a favorable report on HB 118 to address a financial barrier to truly equitable higher education access for all Marylanders.**

¹ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. “I-821-D, Consideration for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals...” September 30, 2017

² Center for American Progress. “State-by-state annual GDP loss from removing workers with DACA.” Table 1. July 21, 2017

³ Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. “State & Local Tax Contributions of Young Undocumented Immigrants”. April 30, 2018



