

Submitter: John O'Donoghue

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2586

Dear Chair Frederick and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

My name is John O'Donoghue. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB2586.

In recent times asylum seekers and other migrants in the United States have been subjected to political rhetoric that dehumanized and objectifies them as if they were an enemy. This leaves them feeling threatened and frightened.

Those going through the typically lengthy process of seeking asylum have experienced grave danger to themselves while living in their place of origin. Asylum seekers deserve any supports we can afford them while they pursue this legal option. They are our current and future friends and neighbors.

Reducing the cost of higher education for them seems like a win-win option: The migrant gets to acquire new qualifications and skills during their time waiting for an asylum determination while the State is investing in a productive and more fully integrated future workforce.

I strongly support HB2586 and hope that you, our legislators, will pass it into law.

Sincerely,

John O'Donoghue.