



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Delegate Dana Stein, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)

RE: HB816 Real Property - Residential Leases - Voter Registration

The MLLC supports HB816 Real Property - Residential Leases - Voter Registration.

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation which improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a voice in the development of public policy affecting the Latino community and the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB816.

Voter suppression continues to affect our nation, especially in communities of color. Black and Latino voters are more likely to experience voter suppression tactics, such as being given inaccurate information about their registration, voter-ID requirements, and lack of access to their polling site. Maryland is currently working through a recent closure of a polling place that was located in a racially and ethnically diverse location. If there are steps that can aid all our eligible voters to be informed and prepared for an election day, despite voter suppression tactics, the legislature must act on them.

A pathway to increase voting in these communities is through landlords and renters. A large population of renters in Maryland are black and Latino families. They often feel that because they are renting, their home is temporary—their stake in their communities are temporary, which is not correct. These individuals live in their communities, have a voice, and can exercise it by voting. Landlords can assist in this process by giving renters a voter registration form.

HB816 requires landlords to provide a voter registration form to their tenant(s). Our disadvantaged families must feel that they not only belong, but have a say in their communities. The simple act of providing a voter registration form can spark the civic engagement they need.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges a favorable report on HB816.