



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 200 · Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Phone 410-841-3374 | 301-858-3374 · 800-492-7122 Ext. 3374 · Fax 410-841-3342 | 301-858-3342
latino.caucus@house.state.md.us · www.mdlatinocaucus.org

DAVID FRASER-HIDALGO, CHAIR
JOSELINE A. PEÑA-MELNYK, VICE-CHAIR
GABRIEL ACEVERO, TREASURER
JESSE T. PIPPY, SECRETARY
CESIAH FUENTES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEMBERS

ALFRED CARR
ALICE CAIN
ALONZO WASHINGTON
ANNE HEALEY
ARIANA B. KELLY
BEN BARNES
BONNIE CULLISON
BROOKE LIERMAN
CAROL L. KRIMM
CHARLOTTE CRUTCHFIELD
CHERYL KAGAN
CRAIG ZUCKER
DAVID MOON
DIANA FENNELL
EMILY SHETTY
EREK BARRON
ERIC LUEDTKE
GERALDINE VALENTINO-SMITH
HEATHER BAGNALL
J. SANDY BARTLETT
JAMES ROSAPEPE
JARED SOLOMON
JAZZ LEWIS
JEFF WALDSTREICHER
JEN TERRASA
JESSICA FELDMARK
JHEANELLE WILKINS
JIM GILCHRIST
JULIE PALAKOVICH CARR
JULIAN IVEY
KAREN LEWIS YOUNG
KEN KERR
LESLEY LOPEZ
LILY QI
LORIG CHARKOUDIAN
MAGGIE MCINTOSH
MALCOLM AUGUSTINE
MARC KORMAN
MARY A. LEHMAN
MARY WASHINGTON
MIKE ROGERS
NICOLE WILLIAMS
PAMELA QUEEN
REGINA T. BOYCE
ROBBYN LEWIS
SHANE PENDERGRASS
SHELLY HETTLEMAN
STEPHANIE SMITH
SUSAN C. LEE
TERRI HILL
VAUGHN STEWART
WANIKA FISHER
WILL SMITH

TO: Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair
Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Vice Chair
Judiciary Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)

RE: HB1338 Criminal Law - Felony Murder - Limitation and Review of
Convictions for Children

The MLLC supports HB1338 Criminal Law - Felony Murder - Limitation and Review of Convictions for Children.

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 HB1338.

Serious criminal reform is necessary to repair the damages of mass incarceration of disadvantaged communities, such as people of color and impoverished individuals. Our criminal justice system disproportionately discriminates against Latino and black offenders. According to a 2018 Sentencing Project report, prosecutors are more likely to charge people of color with crimes that carry heavier sentences than whites. Furthermore, the racial disparities in convictions and sentencing affect both adult and juvenile justice systems.

Under current Maryland law, children, individuals under 18 years old, can be convicted of first-degree felony murder, and as a result are given a life sentence. However, felony murder does not require the intent to kill, meaning children who are involved in another criminal activity that goes awry because of someone else, are charged with first-degree murder.

HB1338 ensures that no more children are convicted of a first-degree murder. This bill also provides those incarcerated individuals who were children at the time of their conviction the possibility of having their convictions reviewed and given a lessened sentence. In keeping our commitment to our disadvantaged communities, we advocate for the State to take the proper measures to end the systematic incarceration of our youth.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges a favorable report on HB1338.