



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
MADELIN MARTINEZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SENATORS
MALCOLM AUGUSTINE
PAMELA G. BEIDLE
JILL P. CARTER
GUY GUZZONE
SHELLY HETTLEMAN
CHERYL C. KAGAN
BENJAMIN F. KRAMER
SUSAN C. LEE
JIM ROSAPEPE
WILLIAM C. SMITH, JR.
JEFF WALDSTREICHER
MARY L. WASHINGTON, PH.D.
RONALD N. YOUNG
CRAIG J. ZUCKER

DELEGATES
HEATHER BAGNALL
BEN BARNES
J. SANDY BARTLETT
LISA BELCASTRO
REGINA T. BOYCE
AL CARR
LORIG CHARKOUDIAN
CHARLOTTE CRUTCHFIELD
BONNIE CULLISON
JESSICA FELDMARK
DIANA M. FENNELL
WANIKA B. FISHER, ESQ.
LINDA FOLEY
CATHI FORBES
JIM GILCHRIST
ANNE HEALEY
SHANEKA HENSON
TERRI L. HILL, M.D.
JULIAN IVEY
DANA JONES
ARIANA KELLY
KENNETH P. KERR, ED.D.
MARC KORMAN
CAROL L. KRIMM
MARY A. LEHMAN
JAZZ LEWIS
ROBBYN LEWIS
BROOKE E. LIERMAN
LESLEY J. LOPEZ
SARA N. LOVE
ERIC LUEDTKE
MAGGIE MCINTOSH
DAVID MOON
JULIE PALAKOVICH CARR
SHANE PENDERGRASS
LILY QI
PAMELA E. QUEEN
MIKE ROGERS
SHEILA RUTH
EMILY SHETTY
STEPHANIE SMITH
JARED SOLOMON
VAUGHN STEWART
JEN TERRASA
GERALDINE VALENTINO-SMITH
ALONZO T. WASHINGTON
MELISSA WELLS
NICOLE A. WILLIAMS, ESQ.
KAREN LEWIS YOUNG

TO: Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbary, Chair
Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)
DATE: January 31, 2022
RE: HB0084 Crimes on School Grounds

The MLLC supports HB0084 Crimes on School Grounds

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB0084

Criminalizing kids for misbehaviors that pose little to no risk to public safety is shown by research to disproportionately push kids that are already underserved and more likely to be subject to biases and harsher discipline into the system. This has been proven to be especially prevalent for girls, kids from poor communities, kids of color, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and gender non-conforming (LGBT/GNC) kids.

This bill intends to rectify juvenile incarceration by protecting children from suffering aggressive consequences for adolescent misbehavior. The justice system is not designed to support kids as they grapple with developmental changes or to address the underlying issues that may be causing them to “act out.” Instead, court involvement and the incarceration that may follow increases the risk of the children engaging in future delinquent (criminal) behaviors and moving deeper into the system. Given this, the bill would ameliorate consequences regarding juvenile misbehavior, ultimately reducing adolescent incarceration and instead properly aiding those who are already at a disadvantage with the system by repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article – Education, Section 26–101, Annotated Code of Maryland. Which states that minors can be not only arrested, but criminally charged for common adolescent misbehavior, such as storming out of class, or other non-violent incidents.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0084.