



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair  
Delegate David Moon, Vice Chair  
Judiciary Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: January 31, 2023  
RE: HB0013 Hate Crimes - Civil Remedy

### **The MLLC supports HB0013 Hate Crimes - Civil Remedy, 2023**

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 HB0013.

The Federal Bureau of Investigations 2020 Hate Crime Report shows an increase in crimes committed against people in Maryland based on their race, ethnicity or ancestry from 2019 to 2020. In particular, the number of hate crimes committed against Hispanics or Latinos increased from 5% to 8% from 2019 to 2020.<sup>1</sup> The numbers reflected on the FBI's website are much lower than those included in the Maryland State Police Hate Bias Report, which captures both criminal and non-criminal bias incidents, and may provide a more complete picture of hate-based harassment in the state. According to the 2021 Hate Bias Report, Maryland experienced an average of 385 hate bias incidents each year from 2019-2021, and a total of 388 incidents in 2021 alone.<sup>2</sup> On average, race, ethnicity and ancestry accounted for 68.7% of all incidents reported from 2019-2021.<sup>3</sup> Incidents were reported in a majority of jurisdictions with Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery, and Harford counties reporting the most incidents.<sup>4</sup> More than 30 other states have already codified civil actions for hate crimes.<sup>5</sup> Maryland should follow in their steps so that a person or persons who are aggrieved by a violation of our hate crime laws can bring a civil action with enhanced penalties against the perpetrator of the crime.

HB0013 protects the rights of individuals to be free from violence against themselves and their property. It discourages people from acting on their biases and punishes violent behavior, and sends a powerful message that Maryland stands against violence motivated by prejudice. HB0013 entitles a person who is the victim of an act constituting a violation of certain hate crime laws to bring a civil action against the person or persons who committed the act in a court of competent jurisdiction. Additionally, the court would be authorized to impose an injunction and award certain economic and noneconomic damages. In appropriate cases, civil remedy

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<sup>1</sup> [Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Data Explorer. \(n.d.\).](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Hate Bias Report 2021. \(2022\). State of Maryland.](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Hate Bias Report 2021. \(2022\). State of Maryland.](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Hate Bias Report 2021. \(2022\). State of Maryland.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Shively, M. \(2005\). Study of Literature and Legislation on Hate. U.S. Department of Justice.](#)

provisions can be incredibly powerful tools for hate crime victims, often affording hate crime victims certain remedies that may not otherwise be available to them.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0013.