



February 13, 2024

Position: SUPPORT

SB 395 - Higher Education - Credit Eligibility and Transfer of Credits - English as a Second Language Courses (Credit for All Language Learning (CALL) Act)

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

This bill, Senate Bill 395, presented by Maryland Latinos Unidos, aims to significantly improve the educational opportunities for Latino and immigrant communities in Maryland. By focusing on access and equity in education, this proposed legislation suggests important measures to enhance the credit transfer process from community colleges to higher education institutions across the state.

The proposed legislation requires community colleges to consider English as a Second Language or English Language Learner courses as eligible for language or humanities elective credits. This will ensure that Latino and immigrant students taking these courses have the opportunity to progress towards an associate's degree without undue obstacles.

Furthermore, the bill establishes that any credit earned at a community college for a specific course must be transferable to any higher education institution in Maryland, without exceptions. This provision removes unfair barriers that could hinder the educational advancement of Latino and immigrant students.

By improving access to higher education and ensuring credit transferability, this bill will strengthen Latino and immigrant communities by opening doors to broader educational and economic opportunities. Additionally, by promoting equity in education, the bill will contribute to the overall growth and development of the state of Maryland by harnessing the full potential of its Latino and immigrant communities. In summary, this legislation represents a significant step towards a more inclusive and prosperous Maryland for all its residents.

Respectfully,
Carlos Orbe, Jr.
Communications and Public Affairs Specialist
Maryland Latinos Unidos