

Maryland Senate

Energy, Education, and the Environment Committee

Favorable: Credit for All Language Learning Act (SB395), February 13, 2024

Submitted on Behalf of the CALL Act Coalition (undersigned) by Owen Silverman Andrews

If the CALL Act is enacted, Maryland community colleges would award degree-applicable credit for English Language Learning courses. Public and private institutions of higher education would accept these credits as Humanities credits fulfilling World Languages bachelors degree requirements.

The CALL Act is supported by [vigorous research](#) and a statewide, grassroots advocacy coalition. Similar legislation has been successfully implemented in other states, including California, though it improves on these laws by better ensuring, through more precise specificity, transferability of the credits between community colleges and bachelors-degree granting institutions. The CALL Act would increase college enrollment, retention, transfer, and completion of credit certificates, associates and bachelors degrees. This means immigrant multilingual English learner students would be more likely to graduate, would graduate sooner, would graduate with less debt, and would enter higher paying, tax revenue generating jobs sooner. To ensure maximum benefits our students and our state, the CALL Act must apply to all institutions of higher education in our state, public and private. To ensure the credits are more likely to transfer to STEM and Health Sciences bachelors degree programs leading to in-demand, well-paying jobs in fields in need of multilingual workers, while still respecting institutional autonomy, the Humanities credit transfer requirement must be preserved as the default with an opt-out provision for specific degree programs based on accreditation or learning outcomes requirements as determined by subject matter experts.

The undersigned, over 250 Marylanders, 15 Maryland-based organizations (representing hundreds of thousands of members), and two dozen nationally recognized scholars in the field, support equity in language learning and broadened higher education pathways for Maryland's immigrant students.

We ask our state legislators to support and vote for the CALL Act.

Signed,

Individuals (organizational sign-ons below):

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Organizations:

Latino Racial Justice Circle; MAS Voice; Latino Education Advancement Fund (LEAF); Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU); Comité Latino de Baltimore; Students Organizing a Multicultural and Open Society (SOMOS); American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland (ACLU-MD); Teachers' Democracy Project (TDP); Baltimore Teachers Union Legislative Committee; CASA; SEIU Local 500; Maryland State Education Association (MSEA); Baltimore Student Union (BSU); AFT-MD; AFSCME Maryland.