



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair  
Delegate Mark S. Chang, Vice Chair  
Appropriations Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: 2/14/24  
RE: HB473 - Higher Education - Undocumented Students -  
Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility

### **The MLLC supports HB473 - Higher Education - Undocumented Students - Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility, 2024**

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 HB473.

According to data from the Higher Ed Immigration Portal, first and second-generation immigrant students comprise 31% of all students enrolled in higher education in the State.<sup>1</sup> However, among Latinos ages 18 to 34, only 19% are enrolled in higher education.<sup>2</sup> A primary systemic barrier to accessing higher education is the exorbitant costs, especially when students who reside in the state do not qualify for in-state tuition.

To eliminate barriers, this bill will reduce the number of years required from a 3-year period annually to have filed Maryland income tax return to a 1-year period beginning the year immediately before an academic year by an individual or individual's parent or legal guardian in order to qualify for the out-of-state tuition exemption associated with tuition at public institutions of higher education in the State; inclusive of out-of-state tuition exemptions for undocumented students.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB473.

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<sup>1</sup> [Higher Ed Immigration Portal](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Excelencia in Education](#)