



## 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

ASHANTI MARTINEZ, CHAIR  
GABRIEL ACEVERO, VICE-CHAIR  
DENI TAVERAS, TREASURER  
JOE VOGEL, SECRETARY  
JASON A. AVILA GARCIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair  
Delegate Mark S. Chang, Vice Chair  
Appropriations Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: January 31st, 2025  
RE: HB298 – Maryland Higher Education Commission –  
Demographic Data Collection – Parental Status

### **The MLLC supports HB298 – Maryland Higher Education Commission – Demographic Data Collection – Parental Status, 2025.**

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 HB298.

This bill requires the Maryland Higher Education Commission to collect data on the parental status of students enrolled in public higher education institutions within the state. Public institutions must gather and report demographic information regarding whether students are parents or guardians, the ages of their children, and the nature of their caregiving responsibilities, including whether they are single parents or share responsibilities. Public institutions must integrate these questions into their demographic data collection processes and report findings to the Commission. Starting September 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Commission will submit a summary report of the data to relevant legislative committees.

This bill is relevant to the Latino Caucus because collecting this information will enable schools to provide more effective support for students with parental responsibilities. Since Latino students are disproportionately more likely to balance education with caregiving<sup>1</sup>, this initiative would directly address their unique needs and ultimately contribute to their long-term success in higher education.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB298.

---

<sup>1</sup> [Ray, Julie. "Half of Hispanic Students Considered Leaving College Last Year." Gallup.com, 27 Sept. 2023](#)