



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair  
Delegate Anne R. Kaiser, Vice Chair  
Appropriations Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: 03/10/2026  
RE: HB0628 - Human Services – Universal Basic Income for  
Transition–Age Youth Program – Establishment

### **The MLLC supports HB0628 - Human Services – Universal Basic Income for Transition–Age Youth Program – Establishment**

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 HB0628.

In 2023, Latino children made up 22% of total children in foster care making up a large portion of the child welfare system<sup>1</sup>. When transitioning out of care, Latino youth face challenges such as economic insecurity, housing instability, and language barriers that prevent them from accessing public benefits. Additionally, the cost of living has increased significantly and a person working a full-time, minimum wage job cannot cross over the poverty line<sup>2</sup>. This means that Latino youth transitioning out of foster care are facing tremendous barriers to achieving financial stability.

Establishing a Universal Basic Income (UBI) of \$1000/month for three years could be transformational for youth transitioning out of the foster care system. A program of this nature could help Latino transition-age youth to meet basic needs, remain housed, pursue education or employment, and avoid exploitation or poverty driven outcomes. Additionally, since these payments would not be considered income when calculating for public service benefits, youth could continue to benefit from public services. This bill could greatly aid Latino youth transitioning out of foster care to find financial stability by providing a reliable monthly income during a particularly vulnerable time in their lives.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0628.

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<sup>1</sup> [The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Kids Count Data Center. Children in Foster Care by Race and Hispanic Origin in the United States.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Drexel University Center for Hunger-Free Communities. Universal Basic Income: Key to Reducing Food Insecurity and Improving Health. 2021.](#)