



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Delegate Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)

RE: HB703 Maryland Commission on Civil Rights - Employment
Discrimination - Reporting

The MLLC supports HB703 Maryland Commission on Civil Rights - Employment Discrimination - Reporting

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation which improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a voice in the development of public policy affecting the Latino community and the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB703.

The richness of our state is our diversity. A recent study reported that Maryland is the fifth most racially and ethnically diverse state in the United States. Some Maryland cities are even among the most diverse areas to reside in the nation. With so many people of various nationalities living and working in Maryland, it is important to recognize when discrimination is occurring. Moreover, collecting the accurate data will ensure the creation of the proper policies to prevent discrimination in the future.

The state must not only welcome diversity, but inclusion. Employers should be treating all their employees fairly and not overlooking qualified individuals because they were born outside of the United States. Our workplaces will continue to look more like the communities we serve, therefore, it is essential to protect all Maryland workers.

HB703 requires the county offices of civil rights in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's counties to report to the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR) regarding employment discrimination. The MCCR will offer recommendations for policies that will address any discriminatory trends. Maryland workers, regardless of country of origin, should not have to experience discrimination in their workplace. The legislature has the opportunity to help be their voice.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges a favorable report on HB703.