



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)

RE: HB1451 School Bus Purchasing – Zero-Emission Vehicle – Requirement

### **The MLLC supports HB1451 School Bus Purchasing – Zero-Emission Vehicle – Requirement.**

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 HB1452.

As Maryland advances to decrease the greenhouse gas emission statewide, reducing the dependency of fossil fuels is possible with zero-emission vehicles. Polluted environments cause detrimental health impacts that effect low-income and marginalized communities. Largely populated Latino communities are subject to air pollution regularly. Studies find Latino and low-income minority children have an increased risk of developing respiratory illnesses due to the high pollution in their environment. Transitioning away from fossil fuel use will aid the air quality for all Marylanders.

Diesel school buses emit aerosol particles that concentrate around the exterior of buses, as well as inside the vehicle. Diesel fueled buses are used all over the state, contaminating the air for our Maryland children every day. Additionally, older school buses that transmit higher levels of fossil fuel emissions run primarily in black, Latino, and low-income communities. It is critical to transition to electric school buses to assist communities who are disproportionately subjected to the negative environmental health risks.

HB1451 will begin the transition of Maryland's school bus fleet from diesel to electric. This bill allows counties to phase into purchasing zero-emission buses by setting benchmarks in 2023 and 2026. We take our children's education and health seriously. In advocating for clean energy and air, the State can prioritize Maryland children's health.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges a favorable report on HB1451.