



## 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

DAVID FRASER-HIDALGO, CHAIR  
JOSELINE A. PEÑA-MELNYK, VICE-CHAIR  
GABRIEL ACEVERO, TREASURER  
JESSE T. PIPPY, SECRETARY  
CESIAH FUENTES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### MEMBERS

ALFRED CARR  
ALONZO WASHINGTON  
ANNE HEALEY  
ARIANA B. KELLY  
BEN BARNES  
BENJAMIN KRAMER  
BONNIE CULLISON  
BROOKE LIERMAN  
CAROL L. KRIMM  
CATHERINE FORBES  
CHARLOTTE CRUTCHFIELD  
CHERYL KAGAN  
CRAIG ZUCKER  
DAVID MOON  
DIANA FENNEL  
EMILY SHETTY  
EREK BARRON  
ERIC LUEDTKE  
GERALDINE VALENTINO-SMITH  
GUY GUZZONE  
HEATHER BAGNALL  
J. SANDY BARTLETT  
JAMES ROSAPEPE  
JARED SOLOMON  
JAZZ LEWIS  
JEFF WALDSTREICHER  
JEN TERRASA  
JESSICA FELDMARK  
JHEANELLE WILKINS  
JILL P. CARTER  
JIM GILCHRIST  
JULIAN IVEY  
JULIE PALAKOVICH CARR  
KAREN LEWIS YOUNG  
KEN KERR  
LESLEY LOPEZ  
LILY QI  
LISA BELCASTRO  
LORIG CHARKOUDIAN  
MAGGIE MCINTOSH  
MALCOLM AUGUSTINE  
MARC KORMAN  
MARY A. LEHMAN  
MARY WASHINGTON  
MELISSA WELLS  
MIKE ROGERS  
NICOLE WILLIAMS  
PAMELA BEIDLE  
PAMELA QUEEN  
REGINA T. BOYCE  
ROBBYN LEWIS  
SHANE PENDERGRASS  
SHANEKA HENSON  
SHEILA RUTH  
SHELLY HETTMAN  
STEPHANIE SMITH  
SUSAN C. LEE  
TERRI HILL  
VAUGHN STEWART  
WANIKA FISHER  
WILL SMITH

TO: Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair  
Judicial Proceedings Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)

DATE: March 30, 2021

RE: HB26 Action to Collect a Private Education Loan - Required Documents

### **The MLLC supports HB26 Action to Collect a Private Education Loan - Required Documents.**

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 HB26.

Student loans have become the [second-largest source of debt](#), after a home mortgage. By the end of 2010, the U.S. student debt was about \$845 billion. A decade later students owe more than [\\$1.7 trillion](#) in student loans—a 102% increase in the past ten years. As these numbers increase, collectors see an opportunity to take advantage of students and their families. Lenders and collectors use abusive and predatory tactics by filing erroneous, or faulty lawsuits against student borrowers. [Students](#) are being sued for debts that they no longer owe, persecuted by companies they never borrowed from, and taken to court by creditors that lack legal standing. These collection agencies also target communities of color, a trend occurring in Maryland.

One of the largest owners of private student loan debt, the National Collegiate Student Loan Trust (NCSLT) has filed a majority of their collection lawsuits against [Maryland residents](#) who live in majority-residents of color zip codes. In addition, during this COVID-19 pandemic, NCSLT has continued to file claims against Maryland student borrowers, many who are already suffering from exacerbated health disparities. Currently, collectors are not required to provide loan documentation to the courts when filing a lawsuit, enabling predatory strategies to take advantage of our state's vulnerable borrowers.

HB26 requires a private education lender or a private education loan collector to possess and introduce evidence of a valid and outstanding loan to initiate a collection action. Failure to produce the required documentation upon request by the borrower is an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice under the Maryland Consumer Protection Act. This legislation will provide the protection Marylanders need from these foul and intimidating companies.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges a favorable report on HB26.