



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Delegate Mark S. Chang, Vice Chair
Appropriations Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)
DATE: 3/4/2022
RE: HB1098 Public Institutions of Higher Education - Students With Chronic Health Conditions - Case Manager

The MLLC supports HB1098 Public Institutions of Higher Education - Students With Chronic Health Conditions - Case Manager

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 HB1098.

The size and rapid growth of the Latino population offers considerable reason to focus on chronic conditions.¹ In 2019, there were 176,838 Hispanic Youth enrolled in Maryland public schools.² Any number of these students could be living with a chronic condition. Grade schools and high schools provide amazing support for students with chronic conditions. This bill would require each institute of higher education in Maryland - including public and community colleges to provide case management services for students with chronic conditions.

Case managers would help these students by coordinating preventions, interventions, and support efforts across campus and community systems to reduce barriers that impede success. On average, College graduates earn as much as 65% more than high school graduates. It is critically important that these students receive the support they need to graduate. Education is the most important factor in being able to make sound health care decisions, which is an undeniable need for this population. Latino College students living with chronic health conditions deserve every opportunity to succeed academically while navigating life with a chronic condition.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0039.

¹ Gretchen Livingston, Susan Minushkin, and D'Vera Cohn, "II. Hispanics and Chronic Disease in the U.S.," Pew Research Center's Hispanic Trends Project, <https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/2008/08/13/ii-hispanics-and-chronic-disease-in-the-u-s/>.

² Maryland State Department of Education, "Maryland Public School Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity and Gender and Number of Schools" (Maryland State Department of Education, September 30, 2019), https://p3cdn4static.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_9046340/File/MSDE%209.30.2019%20Official%20Enrollment.pdf.