



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair  
Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Vice Chair  
Ways and Means Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: February 7, 2023  
RE: HB0028 Income Tax – Credit for Caregivers of Senior Family

Members

### **The MLLC supports HB0028 Income Tax – Credit for Caregivers of Senior Family Members, 2023**

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 HB0028.

It is a key value in the Latinx community to provide the best possible care for parents, grandparents and other elderly relatives. However, this care often comes at high costs to the financial sustainability of many households. In Maryland, there are more than 770,000 people who care for their aging spouse, relative, friend, or community member; assisting with basic activities of daily living, such as mobility, eating, and dressing, as well as more complex tasks such as administering multiple medications, operating medical equipment, and providing wound care.<sup>1</sup> Providing this support has severe consequences on caregivers' finances, including saving, budgeting, housing and investing, and the consequences get even worse when it comes to historically socioeconomic disadvantaged communities. A recent AARP report nearly eight in ten caregivers (78%) report regularly spending their own money on caregiving expenses. The report also found that family caregivers spend, on average, 26% of their income on caregiving expenses or \$7,240 annually. In particular, Hispanic/Latino family caregivers are spending, on average, 47% of their income on caregiving activities. Their assistance helps save taxpayer dollars by helping to delay or prevent more costly nursing home care and unnecessary hospital stays.<sup>2</sup>

The purpose of this bill is to allow a credit against the State income tax for qualified expenses paid or incurred by a taxpayer during the taxable year in caring for a qualified senior family member. This bill will provide seniors' caretakers with a possibility of claiming a tax credit and alleviating some of the associated financial burden.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0028.

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<sup>1</sup>[Family Caregivers Program. \(2017, March 21\). Baltimore City Health Department.](#)

<sup>2</sup>[Skufca, L., & Rainville, C. \(2021\). Caregiving Out-of-Pocket Costs Study. AARP Research.](#)