



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

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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: March 1, 2023
RE: HB0890 Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in

Education

The MLLC supports HB0890 Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education, 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 HB0890.

Latino Marylanders have a rich history in the Chesapeake region that is worthy of academic inquiry. Developing a more inclusive and representative history informs future policy decisions. As of 2020, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) represent 52 percent of Maryland's population.¹ In addition to the overall racial demographic change, Maryland has also seen a significant increase in its immigrant population, with 9 percent of Maryland residents being immigrants in 2000, to an increase of 15 percent in 2019, representing nearly 1 million foreign-born Americans living in the state of Maryland.² These changes reflect the current demographic makeup of Maryland schools, with BIPOC students comprising more than 65 percent of the total student body.³ Research has shown that cultural respect and inclusion in classrooms promotes positive learning outcomes for not only students of color, but all students.⁴ It is imperative that Maryland students have access to education programming that reflects an accurate history of the many contributions of underrepresented groups in our history.

HB0890 would establish the Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education which would make recommendations to the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education to further the discovery, interpretation, and learning of the history, culture, and civics of the United States and Maryland. The Commission would be required to report its findings and recommendations to the State Board, the Governor, and the General Assembly annually. This attention to inclusivity will benefit not only Latino and immigrant students in our state, but all students.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0890.

¹ [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Maryland. \(n.d.\).](#)

² [State Demographics Data - MD. \(n.d.\). Migration Policy Institute.](#)

³ [Maryland Public School Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity and Gender and Number of Schools, September 30, 2021. \(2021\).](#)

⁴ [Stuart Wells, A. Fox, L., & Cordova-Cobo, D. \(2016, February 9\). How Racially Diverse Schools and Classrooms Can Benefit All Students. The Century Foundation.](#)