



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Marc Korman, Chair  
Delegate Regina T. Boyce, Vice Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee Members  
FROM: March 5, 2024  
RE: HB535 - Maryland Task Force on Educator Housing

### **The MLLC supports HB535 - Maryland Task Force on Educator Housing, 2024**

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 HB535.

HB535 would be particularly impactful for the Latino community as there remains a lack of diversity in the teaching profession. According to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), 70 percent of the teacher workforce remains persistently white; yet less than 40 percent of its student population is white.<sup>1</sup> Comparatively, 18.8 percent of Maryland's teachers are Black, compared to 33.2 percent of its students; and only 4.2 percent of the state's teachers are Hispanic/Latino, compared to 21 percent of its students.<sup>2</sup> One reason associated with this disparity relates to cost burdens. An Education Week study shows the cost of housing often prices teachers out of the labor market, and salaries and cost of housing also affect the diversity of the workforce, which disproportionately impact teachers of color and early career teachers.<sup>3</sup>

HB535 establishes the Maryland Task Force on Educator Housing to evaluate and make recommendations on options for addressing the lack of access to attainable housing, including rental and home ownership, for educators in the State. The Task Force on Educator Housing shall include 11 members that will include individuals from the Maryland General Assembly, state agencies, local government and associations. The Task Force shall report on its findings and make recommendations to the Governor on or before December 1, 2025.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB535.

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<sup>1</sup> [Maryland State Department of Education](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Hart](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Sawchuk and Baker](#)