



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair
Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Vice Chair
Judiciary Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: 1/31/24
RE: HB0115 - Criminal Procedure - Victims' Rights - Notification of Release From Confinement (Jaycee Webster Victims' Rights Act)

The MLLC supports HB0115 - Criminal Procedure - Victims' Rights - Notification of Release From Confinement (Jaycee Webster Victims' Rights Act), 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 HB0115.

Immigrants from the Latin American and Caribbean region are vulnerable to violence and discrimination. According to research [1 in 3](#) Latina women will experience violence in their lifetime. By keeping families informed about the release of a convicted murderer, the system demonstrates a commitment to transparency. Transparency and open communication can help build trust between the criminal justice system and the community it serves.¹ These principles of transparency and open communication are crucial to increase trust among the Latino community and other communities affected by crime. According to the Pew Research Center, only 46% of Hispanics say they have a great deal or a fair amount of confidence in local police to not use excessive force on suspects.²

HB0115 would require that if a convicted murderer is released from prison that the family be notified of the release and be provided contact information for the victims advocate in their counties' states attorneys' office. Additionally, this bill provides an outlet for the victims' families to express their concerns and obtain information in order to prepare for the release of a family members' murderer.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0115.

¹ [Literature Review: Community-Oriented Policing and Problem-Oriented Policing | Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. \(n.d.\). Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#)

² [Pew Research Center. \(2020, August 27\). Latino confidence in local police lower than among whites | Pew Research Center.](#)