



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

Low 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: 1/31/24
RE: HB0050 - Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education

The MLLC supports HB0050 - Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education 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 HB0050.

An inclusive education can shape an inclusive classroom, thus increasing a student's sense of belongingness at school and community. Research shows that teaching about diversity and inclusion improves students' attitudes and values, critical thinking skills, and overall achievement levels— for both majority and minority students.¹ As of July 2023, the Census Bureau estimated a statewide population of Black, Indigenous, and other Person of Color (BIPOC) individuals of more than 51 percent.² In addition, BIPOC students comprise 67 percent of the total student body according to the Maryland State Department of Education, with 22 percent identifying as Hispanic.³ Understanding the intersectionality of identities for Latinos, for example with ableism, an inclusive education can enhance the sense of self and belongingness in the community for many Latino students.

HB0050 will establish the Commission on History, Culture, and Civics in Education to make recommendations and further the discovery, interpretation, and learning of the history, culture, and civics of the United States and Maryland. The Commission will examine the contributions made by Indigenous Peoples, Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans, and LGBTQ individuals, among others, and make recommendations to the State Board of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education to honor the rich history of our diverse communities.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0050.

¹ [The Benefits of Diversity Education. American Psychological Association.](#)

² [U.S. Census Bureau](#)

³ [Maryland State Department of Education](#)