



## 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: March 5, 2024  
RE: HB935 - Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act

### **The MLLC supports HB935 - Comprehensive Community Safety Funding 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 HB935.

Data shows that Latinos are disproportionately affected by gun violence in the United States. Almost 75,000 Latinos were killed by guns between 2001 and 2021. Each year, more than 4,700 Latinos die from gun violence, and 13,300 are wounded by gunshots. Looking at the age groups most affected, gun violence is particularly harming Latino youth the most. Among Latino youth ages 24 and under, 65% of deaths caused by guns categorized as homicides.

HB935 will impose an excise tax on certain gross receipts of certain firearms dealers derived from the sales of firearms, firearm accessories, and ammunition in the State. From the excise tax revenue, the Comptroller shall distribute the amount necessary to administer the firearm, firearm accessory, and ammunition excise tax laws to an administrative cost account. After making the distribution required under § 2-4B-01 of this Subtitle, the Comptroller shall distribute the remaining excise tax revenue as follows:

1. 44% to the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund;
2. 29% to the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical System;
3. 23% to the Violence Intervention and Prevention Program Fund;
4. 2% to the Survivors of the Homicide Victims Grant Program within the Governor's Office of Crime and Prevention and Policy; and
5. 2% to the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention within the Maryland Department of Health.

A federally licensed firearms dealer shall complete, under oath, and file with the Comptroller a Firearm, Firearm Accessory, and Ammunition Excise Tax Return.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB935.