

April 1, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for HB 1473 – Public Health – Permanent Makeup and Tattooing – Regulation and Consumer Protection

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk,

Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU) is honored to express our strong support for House Bill 1473, *Public Health – Permanent Makeup and Tattooing – Regulation and Consumer Protection*. This critical legislation establishes statewide licensure requirements for individuals and businesses providing tattooing and permanent makeup services, while empowering the Maryland Department of Health to implement consistent regulations that protect consumers and promote public health.

HB1473 responds to the growing and diverse demand for cosmetic tattooing services—including those related to medical recovery and cultural expression—by ensuring practitioners meet standardized training, safety, and hygiene criteria. These measures are vital for safeguarding Maryland residents from preventable infections, unsafe procedures, and unregulated environments.

This bill is particularly significant for immigrant and Latino communities, who often seek culturally aligned cosmetic services and may turn to informal providers due to language barriers or lack of access to licensed professionals. By expanding oversight and establishing clear consumer protections, HB1473 ensures equitable access to safe, regulated procedures—closing a critical public health gap in underserved areas.

Through our work across the state, MLU has seen how inconsistent regulation in this industry disproportionately impacts non-English speaking and underinsured clients. HB1473 offers a tangible solution by integrating equity-focused standards and education into public health enforcement.

Implications

HB1473 creates broader opportunities for workforce development and public health access, aligning closely with MLU’s mission to advance health equity and empower underrepresented communities. By professionalizing the field and mandating training, the bill opens pathways for bilingual and culturally competent practitioners—many of whom are Latino entrepreneurs—to enter a regulated industry with clarity and support.

The legislation also reduces systemic barriers for immigrant residents by requiring health and safety standards that all Marylanders, regardless of background or status, can rely on. MLU can

amplify the bill's impact by working with the Maryland Department of Health and local organizations to conduct culturally responsive outreach, offer compliance education in Spanish, and promote safe service provider directories statewide.

MLU urges the Health and Government Operations Committee to issue a favorable report on HB1473. This bill represents a vital advancement in public health regulation, consumer safety, and economic inclusion for Maryland's diverse communities.

Sincerely,

Carlos Orbe, Jr.

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