

**February 10, 2025**

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary  
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Esteemed Committee Members,

At Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU), we believe that education is the foundation for equity and opportunity. House Bill 672 speaks directly to this belief by addressing the persistent inequities in school funding that have long disadvantaged students from under-resourced communities. This legislation ensures greater transparency in school budget reporting, shedding light on how resources are allocated and empowering communities to advocate for fair funding.

We know that when school budgets are unclear or inconsistent, it's the students from historically marginalized communities—many of whom are Latino—who feel the impact most. Classrooms are left without essential resources, extracurricular programs are reduced, and students miss out on opportunities to thrive. HB672 is more than just a technical fix; it's a call for fairness and accountability. It gives families and advocates the tools they need to understand how decisions are made and demand better for their children.

For Maryland's Latino community, which now makes up nearly 12.6% of the state's population, this transparency is essential. We see it in our work every day: families determined to provide the best for their children, navigating a complex educational system with limited resources. By creating a clearer picture of how funds are distributed, HB672 offers hope and a pathway to change.

Transparency isn't just about budgets; it's about trust. It's about ensuring that every child, no matter where they live or what language they speak at home, has access to a quality education. It's about showing families that their voices matter in shaping the future of Maryland's schools.

We strongly urge the Ways and Means Committee to issue a favorable report on HB672. This is a crucial step toward building a more equitable and just educational system—one that reflects the needs of all Maryland's children and honors their potential.

Sincerely,  
Carlos Orbe, Jr.  
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