

February 21, 2025  
The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Support for Senate Bill 927 – Corporations and Associations - Limited Equity Housing Cooperatives - Establishment**

Dear Chair Smith and Esteemed Committee Members,

At Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU), we know that safe and stable housing is more than just a necessity—it is the foundation of opportunity. For many Latino and immigrant families in Maryland, homeownership remains an unattainable dream due to rising housing costs, limited access to credit, and systemic barriers that prevent long-term stability. Senate Bill 927 provides a solution that will create lasting affordability, empowering working families to build equity and secure their future.

Latino communities in Maryland disproportionately struggle with housing insecurity. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, over 52% of Latino renters in Maryland are cost-burdened, spending more than 30% of their income on housing. This financial strain limits economic mobility, making it nearly impossible for families to save, invest, or plan for the future. By establishing limited equity housing cooperatives, SB 927 ensures that families can access affordable homeownership while protecting housing stock from speculative market pressures.

This bill offers a pathway to economic security by allowing residents to collectively own and govern their housing, preserving long-term affordability while giving families a stake in their communities. When families can remain in stable homes, children perform better in school, workers contribute more effectively to the economy, and communities become stronger. Studies from the Urban Institute have shown that housing stability significantly improves health outcomes, educational attainment, and job retention, demonstrating the far-reaching benefits of this approach.

MLU strongly supports SB 927 because it aligns with our mission to advance equity and opportunity for Maryland's Latino and immigrant populations. This legislation will allow families to escape the cycle of rising rents, invest in their future, and build generational wealth. As an organization dedicated to advocacy and community empowerment, we will work to ensure that our community members are aware of and able to take full advantage of the opportunities created by this bill.

We urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 927. By passing this legislation, Maryland can take a crucial step toward making homeownership accessible to all, not just a privileged few.

Sincerely,

Carlos Orbe, Jr.  
Communications and Public Affairs Specialist  
Maryland Latinos Unidos  
[corbejr@mdlatinosunidos.org](mailto:corbejr@mdlatinosunidos.org)