

January 24, 2025

The Honorable Delegate Luke Clippinger  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Support for House Bill 289 – Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services –  
Incarcerated Individual Apprenticeship Program**

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU), I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 289 (HB0289), titled "Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services – Incarcerated Individual Apprenticeship Program." This legislation seeks to establish apprenticeship programs in skilled trades for incarcerated individuals, with the purpose of assisting them in developing marketable job skills and earning income that can be utilized upon their release.

For many Latino and immigrant families, economic stability and successful reintegration into society are paramount concerns when a family member is incarcerated. By providing incarcerated individuals with access to apprenticeship programs, HB0289 offers a pathway to gainful employment post-release, thereby reducing recidivism rates and promoting community safety.

This initiative acknowledges the potential within incarcerated individuals to contribute positively to society when equipped with the necessary skills and opportunities. By investing in their development, the state not only enhances individual prospects but also strengthens families and communities, particularly those disproportionately affected by incarceration.

Maryland Latinos Unidos views this bill as a critical step toward fostering a more equitable and just society. By supporting HB0289, the state can empower individuals to transform their lives, support their families, and contribute meaningfully to Maryland's economy.

We respectfully urge the members of the Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report on HB0289. This legislation embodies the values of rehabilitation and opportunity that are fundamental to our state's identity.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Carlos Orbe, Jr.  
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