

February 23, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building  
3 West  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support for Senate Bill 673 State Procurement Apprenticeship Program Accountability and Completion

Dear Chair Guzzone,

Maryland Latinos Unidos respectfully supports Senate Bill 673, which strengthens accountability and completion standards within apprenticeship programs connected to state procurement contracts.

Registered apprenticeships are one of the most effective workforce development strategies available. According to the United States Department of Labor, individuals who complete registered apprenticeships earn higher wages, experience lower unemployment rates, and contribute significantly to state tax revenues over their lifetimes.

Latino workers are significantly represented in construction, infrastructure, and skilled trades sectors, yet completion rates and access to advanced certifications can lag when programs lack strong oversight and equity focused accountability measures. Ensuring that state funded procurement projects support meaningful apprenticeship completion pathways protects public investment and expands economic mobility.

Strengthening accountability in apprenticeship systems supports not only workforce development, but also intergenerational wealth building in communities that have historically faced barriers to skilled trades advancement.

Implications for Latino and immigrant communities

Senate Bill 673 promotes economic equity by ensuring that apprenticeship opportunities connected to public contracts result in real, completed credentials and sustainable wages. For Latino workers and families, this means:

- Increased access to high wage skilled trades
- Reduced income inequality
- Greater career stability
- Stronger pathways to homeownership and small business development

Maryland Latinos Unidos can support outreach efforts to ensure Latino workers are informed about apprenticeship opportunities and can navigate application and completion requirements successfully.

For these reasons, Maryland Latinos Unidos respectfully urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 673.

Sincerely,

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