



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Kriselda Valderrama, Chair  
Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, Vice Chair  
Economic Matters Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: 3/03/2026  
RE: HB1033 - Department of Social and Economic Mobility -  
Maryland Chamber of Commerce Grant Program -  
Established (Business Networks Access Act)

### **The MLLC supports - HB1033 - Department of Social and Economic Mobility - Maryland Chamber of Commerce Grant Program - Established (Business Networks Access Act)**

The Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The Caucus serves as a critical voice in advancing public policy that uplifts Latino families, entrepreneurs, and workers while strengthening Maryland's broader economy. Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for HB1033 - Department of Social and Economic Mobility - Maryland Chamber of Commerce Grant Program - Established (Business Networks Access Act).

HB1033 represents an investment in both Latino entrepreneurs and the long-term economic strength of all Marylanders.

Latinos make up 12 percent of Maryland's population and own more than 58,000 businesses across the state HB1033. <sup>1</sup> These businesses generate jobs, expand local tax bases, and contribute to the vibrancy of communities from urban corridors to rural towns. Yet Latino entrepreneurs, like many other underrepresented business owners, often face structural barriers to accessing the networks that drive growth and opportunity.

Professional networks are not simply social spaces; they are gateways to contracts, mentorship, capital access, and policy influence. By expanding access to institutions like the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, this legislation helps ensure that business leaders, many of whom are Latino, are not excluded from the relationships and visibility that shape economic decision-making.

By lowering the financial barrier to entry, HB1033 helps build social capital for entrepreneurs who have historically been excluded from influential business networks. Strengthening connections between underrepresented business owners and established economic institutions will foster job creation, local investment, and inclusive growth across Maryland.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0759B.

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<sup>1</sup>[The Impact of Hispanic Businesses in Maryland](#)