



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Marc Korman, Chair  
Delegate Michele Guyton], Vice Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: 2/19/2026  
RE: HB0639 - Aviation Health & Safety Act of 2026

### **The MLLC supports HB0639 - Aviation Health & Safety Act of 2026**

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB0639.

In general, individuals in restraints on flights require more health and safety standards for their travels. Over the past year, Latino and immigrant populations have been particularly susceptible to these dangers as deportation flights have skyrocketed with a 44% increase since Trump came back in office.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, there has been a 123% increase in the flight transfer of immigrant detainees within the U.S., moving detainees from detention centers to deportation staging facilities.<sup>2</sup> Reports show that individuals on these deportation and transfer flights are often shackled on the wrists, waist, and ankles, and some are even in full-body restraints.<sup>3</sup> Latinos are overwhelmingly the main immigrant population subject to ICE arrests and proceedings.<sup>4</sup> Consequently, Latinos are also the main immigrant population subject to the risks inherent to being restrained on a flight.

This bill would help better the safety of Latinos on deportation and transfer flights by ensuring there are explicit safety procedures that are followed and that any specific medical needs are known to the flight attendants. Moreover, this bill would assist by ensuring that flight staff are aware of the legal proceedings an individual is involved in, so that they can act accordingly and not overly restrain someone with no history of violent conduct. Ultimately, this bill would ensure that all individuals flying in restraints are kept safe and not put at any unnecessary risk.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0639.

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<sup>1</sup> [ICE Deportation Flights Increased by 44% Since Trump Returned to Office - NOTUS — News of the United States](#)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> [New ICE Flight Monitor Report Shows Sharp Escalation of Deportation and Domestic Transfer Flights Under Trump Administration - Human Rights First](#)

<sup>4</sup> [UCLA Report Finds Latino Arrests by ICE Have Skyrocketed Under the Trump Administration's Second Term](#)