



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
Delegate Kenneth Kerr, Vice Chair
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus

DATE: 03/17/2026

RE: HB0588 - Missing and Murdered American Indian and Alaskan Native Women and Girls - Day of Awareness and Reporting Requirement

The MLLC supports HB0588 - Missing and Murdered American Indian and Alaskan Native Women and Girls - Day of Awareness and Reporting Requirement

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 HB0588.

Generally, there are many intersections among minority communities that lead to disproportionate results due to overlapping social identities. One prevalent example being increased rates of violence against minorities, particularly Indigenous women. Studies show that more than four in five American Indian and Alaskan Native Women have experienced violence in their lifetime, more than 1.5 million women in total.¹ This largely affects the Latino community as many Latin Americans are American Indians. According to the U.S. census, between 2010 and 2020 the “Latin American Indian alone” category increased by 344.7%.²

This bill would not only recognize the disproportionate violence against these communities, but would seek to better prevent the violence by requiring more adequate reporting. By doing so, this bill would help better recognize and protect Indigenous Latinas who have been subject to crimes of violence. Ultimately, the bill would seek to establish greater protections for all minority women subject to violence and would ensure that these injustices are acknowledged on May 5th.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0588.

¹ [Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Crisis | Indian Affairs](#)

² [Beyond The Labels: What does Latine/Hispanic Really Mean? - Sacramento Native American Health Center](#)