

February 9, 2026

The Honorable **Melissa Wells**,
Chair, Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: Support for HB 0219 — Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2026 — Voter Intimidation and Suppression

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU) supports **House Bill 0219**, *Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2026 — Voter Intimidation and Suppression*, as introduced in the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee. HB 0219 strengthens protections against intimidation and suppression tactics that have historically disenfranchised voters of color and language minority communities.

This bill is an essential step toward ensuring that all Marylanders, regardless of race, language, or background, have confidence that their vote will be counted and that they can participate without fear or confusion.

Implications for Latino and Immigrant Marylanders

HB 0219 affirms equity in our democracy by targeting tactics that dampen participation among historically underrepresented groups. Clear legal protections paired with accessible reporting mechanisms will enable communities to participate fully and safely. MLU will support implementation through education and legal resources that demystify rights and reporting processes.

MLU urges the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee to report HB 0219 favorably.

Sincerely,
Carlos Orbe, Jr.