



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 200 · Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Phone 410-841-3374 | 301-858-3374 · 800-492-7122 Ext. 3374 · Fax 410-841-3342 | 301-858-3342
latino.caucus@house.state.md.us · www.mdlatinocaucus.org

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TO: Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair
Delegate Debra Davis, Vice Chair
Judiciary Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: 3/11/2026
RE: HB832 - State Law Enforcement Agencies - Hiring
Restriction (ICE Breaker Act)

The MLLC supports - HB832 - State Law Enforcement Agencies - Hiring Restriction (ICE Breaker Act)

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 HB832.

Over the past year, immigrant communities across Maryland have experienced an unprecedented surge in aggressive immigration enforcement actions by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). According to data compiled by the Deportation Data Project, ICE arrests in our state nearly tripled from 2024 to 2025, resulting in more than 3,300 Marylanders taken into federal custody between January and October 2025, far exceeding historical norms.

The result has been widespread fear, trauma, and community disruption: parents separated from young children, essential workers pulled from jobs, and families forced into long-distance detention or deportation with little notice. This climate of fear has profound public safety repercussions. When neighbors fear that any routine interaction with government officials could lead to deportation, they are far less likely to report crimes, testify as witnesses, or cooperate in investigations. This is especially true for Latino and immigrant residents who see ICE enforcement actions as systemic and indiscriminate.

If State law enforcement agencies hire individuals who participated in these tactics for the purpose of public safety here in Maryland, it sends a message that these aggressive federal practices are acceptable and that our communities' concerns do not matter. State agencies must be accountable to the communities they serve, not to an agenda that has inflicted harm and fear.

By affirming that Maryland law enforcement should not employ individuals from a federal agency whose recent conduct has so deeply traumatized Maryland families, HB832 helps rebuild trust between law enforcement and the communities they protect. It protects the fundamental right of every person to feel safe reporting crimes, accessing emergency services, and participating fully in civic life.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0832.