



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

ASHANTI MARTINEZ, CHAIR
GABRIEL ACEVERO, VICE-CHAIR
DENI TAVERAS, TREASURER
JOE VOGEL, SECRETARY
JASON A. AVILA GARCIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair
Delegate Debra Davis, Vice Chair
Judiciary Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: 02/10/2026
RE: HB0450 - Criminal Procedure - Protection of Identity of
Victim of Sexual Assault or Stalking

The MLLC supports HB0450 - Criminal Procedure - Protection of Identity of Victim of Sexual Assault or Stalking

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 HB0450.

This bill generally seeks to prevent the release of identifying information of a minor victim, victims of sexual assault, and victims of stalking in an effort to ensure their personal safety, reduce risks of harassment, and encourage more reporting. In general, only 1 of 3 sexual assault victims report their assault to law enforcement¹. Victims that choose not to report note a variety of reasons including fear of retaliation, shame, lack of trust in law enforcement, immigration status and other reasons². Additionally, the rapid growth of the Latino/Hispanic population has created a gap in victim service agencies leading to a likely large number of unreported assaults by Spanish speaking Latinas³. These concerns point to the vulnerable state of sexual assault victims that choose to report their assault and be involved in the justice system.

Furthermore, requesting a translator is a common way in which identifying information of victims may come to light and Spanish accounts for over 90% of all interpreting requests⁴. As a result, Spanish-speaking victims are particularly susceptible to the disclosure of their personal information. This bill can help redress these concerns by ensuring that Latino/Hispanic victims of sexual assault and stalking are not susceptible to their identifying information being leaked when bringing their cases forward. Protecting these victims from identification should be a priority.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0450.

¹ [RAINN. Statistics: The Criminal Justice System.](#)

² [Women & Families Center \(WFC\) in Connecticut. Why Most Sexual Assaults Are Not Reported.](#)

³ [Office for Victims of Crime. Latinas and Sexual Violence.](#)

⁴ [United States Courts. Court Interpreters Deliver Justice in All Languages. 10 Aug. 2017.](#)