



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Chair
Delegate Jessica Feldmark, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: 3/5/2026
RE: HB0197 - Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act

The MLLC supports HB0197 - Comprehensive Community Safety Funding 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 HB0197.

Gun violence is a plague amongst communities in the United States. In Maryland, gun violence disproportionately affects Hispanic and Latino communities where Hispanic/Latinos are four times more likely to die from gun homicide than White people¹. Some of the most recent, deadliest mass shootings in the U.S., Uvalde and El Paso, Texas, have affected Latino/Hispanic communities where the effects and trauma have been long lasting. Research by Everytown, describes the individual effects of trauma to include anxiety, depression, hypervigilance, and other physical symptoms². Similarly, trauma can reverberate through communities creating feelings of hopelessness, fear, and numbness in physical spaces that previously brought joy to communities. Due to these experiences, Hispanic/Latinos are exceedingly in favor of stronger gun safety legislation³.

This bill imposes an 11% excise tax on firearm dealer sales in Maryland and directs the revenue to fund gun violence prevention programs and shock-trauma services across the State. The excise tax on gun dealer sales in this bill would provide sustained funding for community gun violence prevention programs and critical shock-trauma care, aiming to reduce trauma and save lives. Due to increasing gun violence and concerns about the lasting effects experienced by victims and their families, Latinos in Maryland would greatly benefit from this legislation.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0197.

¹ [Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Center for Gun Violence Solutions. Maryland.](#)

² [Everytown. Beyond Measure Gun Violence Trauma. 17 May. 2023.](#)

³ [The Center for American Progress. Gun Violence Has a Devastating Impact on Hispanic Communities. 1 Nov. 2022.](#)