



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Delegate Dana Stein, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)

RE: HB1324 Workgroup on Statewide Vehicle Crash Data Collection and Reporting

The MLLC supports HB1324 Workgroup on Statewide Vehicle Crash Data Collection and Reporting.

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation which improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a voice in the development of public policy affecting the Latino community and the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB1324.

Nationwide, Latinos are disproportionately affected by pedestrian and bicycle crashes. Smart Growth America research has shown that Latino pedestrians are killed by motor vehicles at rates almost two times higher than white pedestrians. Currently in our state, race and ethnicity data for these traffic accidents are only reported through death certificates. Lack of non-fatal crash data makes it nearly impossible to address the causes and reduction of risk when commuting on foot and bicycles.

Information from non-fatal crash reports must include race and ethnicity of the individuals involved to have a better understanding of this disparity. Racial and ethnic data collection in crash reports will aid in developing future policy measures to reduce traffic hazards, promote equity, and close traffic and injury disparities experienced by racial and ethnic minorities.

HB1324 establishes a workgroup that will develop policy recommendations on how the Maryland Highway Safety Office can collect and report statewide crash data by race and ethnicity. This bill would require the Maryland Highway Safety Office to collect data on fatalities and injuries by race and ethnicity of those involved in a crash beginning in 2021 and the years thereafter. By requiring the collection of this information, the state will better understand this problem and will be able to create solutions for the improvement and safety of all Maryland communities.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges a favorable report on HB1324.