



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair  
Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Vice Chair  
Judiciary Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus

RE: HB388 Criminal Procedure - Civil Immigration Enforcement - Restrictions

### **The MLLC supports HB388 Criminal Procedure - Civil Immigration Enforcement - Restrictions**

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 HB388.

In August 2019, an undocumented man was helping a relative cut down a tree in Rockville. Maryland Natural Resources Police Officers arrived and ran his information in a national database. They fined the man for not having the appropriate license to cut down a tree and proceeded to detain him for more than two hours waiting for U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) agents. The database indicated ICE filed an administrative warrant for the 31 year old immigrant man. Maryland State Police policy is to not act on administrative warrants—only judicial warrants, a practice that all state agencies are supposed to be consistent with.

While this particular incident received lots of attention, events like this have been happening for years. Individuals should not be fearful of law enforcement officers. Our Latino and immigrant communities are afraid that an exchange could lead to being detained and potentially deported, leaving behind their families and the lives that they have worked for and built in Maryland.

HB388 creates the needed consistency for all police departments to not inquire about immigration status, citizenship, and to act only under a filed judicial warrant. If this process is the standard for the Maryland State Police, it can be executed statewide. We continue to support and advocate for our families and community members because this is their home.

The MLLC supports this bill and seeks your favorable report on HB388.