

February 10, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland General Assembly
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Support for Senate Bill 451 – Adult Education – High School Diploma by Examination – Requirements and Study

Dear Chair Feldman and Esteemed Committee Members,

At Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU), we believe that education is a lifelong journey and a gateway to opportunity. Senate Bill 451, which focuses on expanding access to high school diplomas through examination and conducting a study on adult education requirements, represents a vital opportunity to remove barriers for individuals striving to improve their futures.

For many adults in Maryland, especially in the Latino and immigrant communities, earning a high school diploma is not just an educational milestone—it's a second chance. It opens doors to better job opportunities, higher education, and greater economic stability. SB451 ensures that adults seeking to earn their diploma through examination are given a fair shot by updating outdated requirements and launching a comprehensive study to address gaps in adult education services.

Too often, adult learners are overlooked in educational policy discussions. Yet, they are some of the most determined and hardworking members of our community, balancing jobs, families, and personal responsibilities while pursuing their education. By modernizing the pathway to a high school diploma, SB451 provides these individuals with a realistic and achievable way to reach their goals.

This legislation is about equity and inclusion. It acknowledges the diverse experiences and challenges faced by adult learners and aims to meet them where they are. By removing unnecessary obstacles, we can empower thousands of Marylanders to unlock new opportunities and contribute more fully to their communities.

We urge the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to issue a favorable report on SB451. Together, we can build a stronger, more inclusive Maryland, where every learner—regardless of age—has the chance to succeed.

Sincerely,
Carlos Orbe, Jr.
Communications and Public Affairs Specialist
Maryland Latinos Unidos
corbejr@mdlatinosunidos.org