



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan

100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

September 3, 2021

Dear Governor Hogan,

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) presents a critical opportunity for educational reform, including the survey of funds that focus on increasing equity for underserved populations. That is why the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC) was disappointed by the AIB Nominations Committee's list of nominees that was released this week.

The legislation and the Board may be intended to help all Marylanders, however, there is a discernible lack of representation for Latino communities in Maryland. We know if we are not at the table, we are less likely to have a voice.

The new 2020 Census data is clear. The increase of the Latino population drove our nation's growth over the past decade; Latinos accounted for more than [50 percent](#) of the country's augmented population numbers. A similar trend is seen in Maryland, where Latino residents are among the most [rapidly growing](#) demographic in our state.

In the last 10 years, the Latino population has grown from eight to nearly [12 percent](#) in Maryland. Importantly, the Latino population encompasses a [large and also growing segment](#) of a young generation that is directly impacted by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Without adequate representation on the AIB, it will be difficult to sufficiently meet the needs of the Latino students whom this legislation is intended to support.

Additionally, Latino youth constitutes the largest [proportion](#) of English Language Learners, who are typically the children of parents of limited education and who experience disproportionate levels of [poverty](#). They stand to benefit tremendously from the expenditures outlined in the Blueprint.

If the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is to achieve its aims, there must be a consideration for the AIB to incorporate the representation that can ensure the unique interests of the Latino student population are being taken into account. We respectfully urge you to name a qualified Latino member as an addition to the AIB. This is a pivotal time for our students and our highest priority is affording them a future that is bright and successful. We would like to achieve this together through an inclusive and equitable Accountability and Implementation Board.

If you are interested in discussing this matter further, I can be contacted at David.Fraser.Hidalgo@house.state.md.us, or you can reach out to our Executive Director, Cesiah Fuentes at Latino.Caucus@house.state.md.us. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Fraser-Hidalgo". The signature is stylized and cursive.

David Fraser-Hidalgo, Chair

cc:

Senator Paul Pinsky, Chair Blueprint for Maryland's Future of the Accountability and Implementation Board

Senate President Bill Ferguson

Speaker of the House Adrienne Jones