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THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DELEGATION

**Montgomery County Delegation 2012 Session
Member Accomplishments**

Montgomery County Senate Delegation:

Senator Jamie Raskin (District 20), Chair, Montgomery County Senate Delegation:

Sponsored:

- **Senate Bill 920: Ethics Online Disclosure Act of 2012** - The Ethics Online Disclosure Act requires that Members of the General Assembly have their conflict of interest and identity-of-employer disclosure forms put on-line for complete public transparency. Maryland now starts the process of bringing its obsolescent ethics regime into the 21st century. General Assembly members will be on-line by 2013.
- **Senate Bill 175: Crimes – Electronic Communication – Harassment** - This legislation takes a strong stand against cyber-harassment by modernizing the harassment statute. Under the updated law, “electronic communication” replaces “electronic mail” so that a person cannot harass another person through use of any electronic technology, including Facebook and texting.
- **Senate Bill 506: Vehicle Laws - Provisional Driver's Licenses - Driver Ed Requirements** - By adjusting the driver’s license requirements for older drivers, persons over 25 who do not have a license yet will be able to obtain one more easily. Now, a learner’s permit holder will be required to wait only 45 days rather than nine months in order to receive a driver’s license and will have reduced classroom and practical instruction time.
- **Senate Bill 856: Courts and Judicial Proceedings - Maryland Mediation Confidentiality Act** - This bill establishes the confidentiality of all mediation proceedings, allowing participants to share information and reach compromise and consensus without fear of disclosed information being used against them. This bill greatly strengthens Maryland’s mediation process, which is an excellent alternative to court-centered litigation.

Cosponsor:

- **Senate Bill 179: Kathleen A. Mathias Chemotherapy Parity Act of 2012** - This bill eliminates a major health care disparity by ensuring that insurance plans cover equally the intravenous form and the oral form of chemotherapy. Presently many insurance plans will not cover oral chemo treatment, which leads to serious problems for many patients.

Senator Nancy J. King (District 39), Vice-Chair, Montgomery County Senate Delegation:

- Senator Nancy J. King was the Senate sponsor of the Maintenance of Effort bill. This legislation will protect funding for our public schools while recognizing the efforts of those counties who exceed funding requirements. The Maryland State Education Association responded to the enactment of the bill by issuing the following statement: “The passage of SB 848 is a monumental step forward for Maryland’s public schools, protecting local school funding from deep cuts, providing local governments with the flexibility they’ve long asked for, and ensuring the dependable levels of funding that our students need to thrive.”

- As a leading advocate for children in our state, Senator King understands that the recipe for educational success begins long before a child enters kindergarten. Senator King sponsored legislation which will strengthen Maryland's competitiveness for federal funds for Home Visiting Programs. This program which matches new parents with trained professionals has exhibited exceptional outcomes for children at risk. Home Visiting services are shown to significantly reduce tax-payer dollars by avoiding more costly problems later in life.
- Regular preventive dental care is an important part of a healthy lifestyle. Senator King sponsored legislation with her District 39 colleague, Delegate Barkley, that lessens the time between visits currently required by dental care insurance providers. Under Senator King's bill, if an insurance company provides two preventive care visits per policy year, you only need to wait 120 days between visits rather than the current six months. This legislation will give consumers greater flexibility to schedule an appointment on their terms rather than the insurance company's.

Senator Jennie M. Forehand (District 17):

- Created Maryland's first vote-by-mail law: conduct County Council special elections via mail-in ballots, saving tens of thousands of dollars and increasing voter turnout.
- Made it possible for child victims of sex trafficking to be diverted to social service departments instead of juvenile detention when arrested by expanding Maryland's child abuse law to include "human trafficking." This change also allows Child Protective Services to be called in to rescue a suspected child trafficking victim.
- Upgraded the State's child safety seat regulations, removing the weight exception, and basing the requirement for a safety or booster seat solely on age and height in line with new research and federal standards.

Senator Brian E. Frosh (District 16):

- Secured a state commitment for the Bethesda bikeshare program including \$250,000 in bond funds and obtained \$250,000 in bond funds for the National Center for Children and Families.
- Sponsored legislation that authorizes a food service facility to operate with its outer windows or outer doors (except for doors that lead outside from the kitchen) open unless the local health department finds evidence that pose a significant threat to sanitation or public health.

Senator Rob Garagiola (District 15):

• Promoted further Solar Energy Development and Green Job Growth.

→ Successfully sponsored legislation (SB 791) that will accelerate Maryland's achievement of 2% solar electricity generation by two years. With the passage of this measure, it is estimated that within 6 years, Maryland will see an increase of over 10,000 green jobs and \$3 billion in direct investment.

• Facilitated Electric Vehicle Integration. Successfully sponsored two initiatives that will remove infrastructure barriers to the integration and promotion of electric vehicles.

→ SB 997 clarifies that individuals charging electric vehicles cannot be regulated by the Maryland Public Service Commission as retail electric customers.

→ SB 988 ensures that utility companies have the necessary information to make any critical upgrades to transformers and maintain safe and efficient load distribution.

- **Provided Scholarships for Maryland's Veterans and Firefighters.**

→ SB 292 extends the sunset date for the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship that was created through Garagiola's 2006 legislation. Since its implementation, 480 people have been assisted through the Scholarship Program, with over \$2.5 million awarded thus far.

→ SB 365 establishes a scholarship fund for Maryland's career and volunteer firefighters.

Senator Richard Madaleno (District 18):

- **Maintenance of Effort (MOE):** As Chairman of the Education, Business and Administration Subcommittee of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, Senator Madaleno helped secure our state's constitutional commitment to education as the Senate floor leader defending comprehensive reforms to MOE. These reforms secure critical funding for our public school system, protect local school funding from deep cuts and preserve the quality of life of student education in Maryland.
- **Marriage Equality:** As a champion of equal rights and a principal sponsor of the Civil Marriage Protection Act of 2012, Senator Madaleno led the effort to secure final passage of legislation providing equal marriage rights for gay and lesbian couples in Maryland. Having laid the groundwork for this historic legislation over the past five years, Senator Madaleno additionally helped craft protections and exemptions for religious institutions as part of the bill.
- **Budget:** As a member of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee, Senator Madaleno pushed for a balanced approach in crafting Maryland's comprehensive budget package. The operating budget as passed appropriates over \$5 billion for K-12 education, over \$3.5 billion for health resources and in excess of \$1 billion for public safety. The capital budget includes over \$1 billion in funding for higher education, public safety, the environment and school construction.
- **Local:** In response to concerns expressed by District 18 residents affected by BRAC related eminent domain proceedings (and future Purple Line construction), Senator Madaleno worked to secure an exemption from state income taxes for Maryland residents who have a portion of their primary residence property forcibly acquired by the state Department of Transportation. Individuals who have their entire property acquired are already eligible for an exemption at the federal and state levels.

Senator Roger Manno (District 19):

- **Jobs and Economic Development:** Authored the new "Security Clearance Tax Credit" (SB296) to increase high-skilled, high-pay federal jobs to Marylanders. Funded at \$2 million annually, this legislation was one of five bills included in the 2012 Bipartisan Senate Leadership Package, and received strong support from both business and labor groups. This partnership represents a real and substantial investment in jobs, economic development, and the future of Maryland.
- **Budget Amendments:** Authored numerous successful amendments to the Budget, including to protect the University of Maryland Environmental Law Clinic from funding attacks as a result of litigation against polluters, a study on lung cancer screenings, and a study on the creation of a new innovative K-12 education grant - the "Supplemental Education Challenge Grant" - addressing unprecedented enrollment increases in ESOL and FARMs students in Montgomery.
- **K-12 and Higher Education:** Authored the new "Tuition Waiver for Disabled Individuals" bill (SB 656), which will expand tuition support for students with permanent and total disabilities. In addition, I authored an early version of the Maintenance of Effort education funding legislation, and was proud to cosponsor

Senator King's legislation that will ensure that our children continue to have the very best K-12 education system in the United States.

- **Funding for Senior Assisted Living:** Partnered with 19th District Delegates Ben Kramer, Bonnie Cullison, and Sam Arora to secure \$40,000 in state funding for renovations at B'nai B'rith Homecrest House. This funding is in addition to the \$119,000 in state funding that we secured in 2011 for this phenomenal facility in the 19th District.

Senator Karen S. Montgomery (District 14):

- **SB 550 Health - Cottage Food Businesses - Requirements:** This bill allows a small business to prepare dry food in a residential kitchen to be sold at a farmer's market or public event. This legislation removes the expense of being licensed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH).
- **SB 549 Small Business Reserve Program - Definition of Small Business - Revision:** This bill increased the number of candidates applicable to be enrolled in the Small Business Reserve Program (SBR). This benefits small businesses because SBR requires most State procurement units to structure their procurements so that at least 10% of the total dollar value of their procurements is made directly to small businesses.
- **SB 415 Handling Human Remains with Dignity Act of 2012:** In April 2009, the Washington Post ran a series of articles detailing grossly improper handling and storage of bodies, many of whom were veterans awaiting burial at Washington National Cemetery. This bill establishes requirements for the proper handling of the body of a decedent for funeral establishments and cemeteries.
- A number of matching grants were awarded to several local organizations. In total, \$635,000 was awarded to local community facilities. Those receiving funds are: Woodlawn Barn Visitor's Center, the Olney Police Satellite Station, The Muslim Community Center and The Sandy Spring Odd Fellows Lodge. Extensions were also granted to the Maydale Nature Center, Sandy Spring Museum and Olney Theatre.

Montgomery County House Delegation:

Delegate Brian J. Feldman (District 15), Chair, Montgomery County House Delegation:

- As Chair of Montgomery County House Delegation, fought to secure over \$2 million in State funding for Montgomery County capital projects, in the form of Bond Bills. These funds will support our parks and recreational facilities as well as charitable and cultural organizations across the County;
- Introduced and gained passage of eleven (11) bills that update, clarify and modernize our laws in several important areas ranging from commercial, banking, business and insurance to laws governing estates. These updates will allow Maryland businesses to compete more effectively with businesses incorporated in other states;
- Introduced and gained passage of legislation, already in law in D.C. and Virginia, which allows an individual who is dining in a restaurant, club or hotel to bring their own wine into the establishment and consume it, so long as the individual receives the approval of the establishment.

Delegate Susan C. Lee (District 16), Vice-Chair, Montgomery County House Delegation:

As Women's Caucus President, led efforts to pass bills to empower women, children and families, provide greater health care access and funding for the Women's Heritage Center, protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, decrease health disparities, and place a statue of Harriet Tubman in the US Capitol.

- **HB 1148:** Authored and passed a bill enabling Crime Victims and their representatives with limited English proficiency to have a court appointed interpreter as is afforded defendants. The law provides crime victims with equal access to the criminal justice system, especially those victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and from immigrant communities.
- **HB 1149:** As Lead Sponsor, passed a bill to enable health care providers to be reimbursed for vital health care services delivered via Telemedicine, thereby allowing physicians to provide lifesaving services to patients in rural, remote, or underserved communities or in critical care or emergency situations like trauma, cardiac arrest or stroke- when minutes matter.
- **HB 1429:** As Lead House Sponsor & Women's Caucus President passed bill to place in the US Capitol, a statue of Marylander and American hero Harriet Tubman, which would not only highlight the outstanding contributions made by Maryland's women and minorities, but also serve as a beacon of inspiration to countless visitors to the US Capitol.
- **HB 1144:** As Lead House Sponsor helped pass a state bond seeking \$250,000 to equip a multi-purpose facility for the National Center for Children and Families, which has provided the structure, education, transitional housing, support and services to empower and transform the lives of vulnerable children and families, some who are homeless.

Delegate Sam Arora (District 19):

- **Closing Special-Interest Loopholes.** Delegate Arora authored what the Gazette characterized as “almost the impossible in government — rais[ing] revenues without raising tax rates”, which the Baltimore Sun also lauded. Delegate Arora's measure, included in the tax package expected to be passed in a special session would close a significant loophole in Maryland's tax code that has permitted a certain type of trust fund to avoid state income taxes and is expected to raise tens of millions of dollars.
- **Standing Up for Seniors.** Delegate Arora put one of Maryland's biggest public health problems on the General Assembly's agenda—falls by senior citizens, which are Maryland's leading cause of injury-related hospitalization. Delegate Arora's work on this issue won commitments by state health and aging agencies to establish a statewide protocol for home safety inspections for seniors discharged from the hospital following a fall, with the aim of reducing future fall-related readmissions.

Delegate Charles Barkley (District 39):

My successful bills this session include:

- **HB 110 – Alcoholic Beverages - Criminal History Records Checks**
provide follow-up criminal background checks to each local liquor board on holders of alcohol licenses
- **HB 1027 – Credit Regulations – Debt Cancellation Agreements**
clarifies the definition of “debt cancellation agreements” and outlines procedures for what happens when a consumer does not have insurance

- **HB 1356 Health Insurance – Dental Preventive Care Coverage**
provides flexibility when scheduling routine dental checkups
- **HB 1432 – Alcohol Beverages – Comptroller – Departments of Liquor Control and Liquor Control Boards.**
clarifies the authority of the Comptroller to enforce Maryland’s alcohol laws.

Delegate Alfred C. Carr, Jr. (District 18):

- Building on his efforts to support smart transportation investments, Delegate Al Carr worked with a statewide, bipartisan group of legislators to found and co-chair the MARC Train Working Group to advocate for improved commuter rail service in Maryland.
- Delegate Carr worked to strengthen the safety net in Maryland during these hard times. He worked with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to ensure that low-income residents of Montgomery and Prince Georges County receive better access to needed utility assistance.
- Worked with his Environmental Matters Committee colleagues to secure passage of landmark legislation to clean our waterways, protect the Chesapeake Bay and to remove arsenic in poultry feed from our food supply.

Delegate Bonnie Cullison (District 19):

- Delegate Bonnie Cullison worked with physicians to pass HB 957, the Public Disclosure of Professional Credentials and Reports on Advertising Regulations and Policies Act. This requires doctors who advertise their services to display their accreditation from the appropriate licensing board. This act will help prevent fraud and misleading advertising – helping to further strengthen the bonds of trust between doctors and the community.
- We worked with advocates of the long-term and life insurance providers on HB 1340, Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Corporation Act – Revisions, to update a 42-year old program which protects Maryland residents in the event that a life or health insurance company is unable to meet its contractual obligations. The bill addresses new products available, the changes in processing claims and administering policies.
- In December we introduced MC 15-12, The Physical Accessibility Rating System Act. The intent was to draw attention to the plight of the physically disabled in accessing restaurants, theatres, and other public accommodations. Maryland Secretary of Disabilities Catherine Raggio agreed to work with us and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services on a pilot program. Volunteers will be trained in April on a new smart phone application which allows users to upload ratings of public establishments on how accessible they are. If the pilot is successful, they may take the project statewide. We can do this without legislation and we are excited about the prospects of providing reliable information to consumers with disabilities.

Delegate Kathleen M. Dumais (District 15):

Vice Chair, Judiciary Committee

As Vice Chair, I assisted in the review and passage of our committee’s legislation; negotiated conflicts within the committee and with the Senate; and led debates in committee and on the House floor. This session, I also worked on several of my own legislative initiatives and cosponsored a myriad of other initiatives with colleagues, about 70 bills in total. Here is a brief summary of some of my legislative accomplishments:

- **HB 1146 – Domestically Related Crimes – Reporting** – This bill I sponsored requires a court to determine if a crime is a “domestically related crime,” the results of which becomes part of the court record for future use to protect victims of domestic violence. HB 1146 is awaiting the governor’s signature.
- **HB 1238 – Maryland Legal Services Corporation Fund (MLSC)** – This bill I sponsored enhances the MLSC Fund’s ability to give grants to nonprofits providing civil legal assistance to low-income Marylanders by preventing the Comptroller from raiding it for unwarranted interest payments. HB 1238 is awaiting the governor’s signature.
- **HB 762/SB 856 – Maryland Mediation Confidentiality Act (sponsor)** – ensures confidentiality for non-court ordered mediation participants, a preferred method to resolve legal disputes (sponsor). SB 856, the Senate’s cross-filed bill, sponsored by Senator Jamie Raskin, was the final measure that was adopted. Status: SB 856 awaiting the governor’s signature.
- **HB 438 – Civil Marriage Protection Act (co-sponsor)** – This bill provides equal rights to same-sex couples in Maryland with strong protections for the constitutional rights of religious institutions. I led the floor debate in favor of HB 438 and played an active role in the negotiations over the final language of the bill, which Governor O’Malley signed HB 438 on March 1.

Delegate C. William Frick (District 16):

- Lead Sponsor of the **Lend Local Act of 2012**, legislation that provides the mechanism to put more of our public dollars into the community banks that are lending to our state’s small businesses.
- Lead Sponsor of **House Bill 764** legislation to establish a process for evaluating State tax credits and expenditures. This is a common sense, good government bill designed to ensure that all of our spending is justified and in the best interests of our citizens.
- Lead Sponsor of **House Bill 841** legislation to establish conditions under which restaurants and other food service facilities may operate with open windows and doors.
- Helped secure grant money for the expansion of the Montgomery County Bike Sharing System into Lower Montgomery County. Similar to the Capital Bikeshare network in the District, these short term bike rentals provide connections to and from Metro and other transit, as well as short trip destinations.
- Together with Senator Madaleno sponsored legislation to give county residents a tax break from compensation received from the state in connection with partial land acquisitions related to the BRAC expansion and Purple Line construction.

Delegate Ana Sol Gutiérrez (District 18):

Serves on House Appropriations Committee

- Proud to have worked for the historic passage of Marriage Equality in Maryland.
- Worked with House Appropriations to prepare a 2013 balanced budget that would among many other priorities maintain high education investments in both K-12 and higher education for all students.
- Worked on Health and Human Resources Subcommittee to ensure the full implementation of the federal Access to Health Care Act and move forward the creation of Maryland's Health Care Exchanges to serve thousands on currently uninsured individuals and families.

- Proposed progressive legislation to establish a State Banking Task Force that would keep more taxpayer money in state rather than with big out-of-state banks. Proposed a new tax on capital gains to more equitably raise new revenues based on ability to pay.

Delegate Sheila E. Hixson (District 20):

Chair, Ways and Means Committee

- Chairing the Ways and Means Committee, Delegate Sheila Hixson has been involved with many bills ranging from topics of elections to taxation to gambling to education. Chairwoman Hixson has also worked closely with the 2013 Fiscal Year Budget, trying to do what is best for Maryland.
- **(Sponsor) Reform Commission for Communication Taxes** Because of this bill a commission will be implemented to examine the telecommunication taxes in Maryland. The last telecommunication tax reform in Maryland was performed in 1997; since then there have been many technological advances in telecommunications. This commission will help reorganize the taxes to create a better economic structure for the entire state of Maryland.
- **(Sponsor) Calculation of Alcohol Sales and Use Tax** This bill clarifies the Alcohol tax of 2011. It simplifies the taxation on gratuity for checks of parties of ten or more, and it also clarifies the taxation when purchasing alcohol for catering or party services. Simplifying the alcohol tax helps consumers and businesses alike.
- **(Sponsor) Designation of Public Libraries for Essential Community Service During Times of Emergency** This bill will help communities during times of emergency by having public libraries provide essential public service needs during times of emergency. There are currently 187 public libraries in the State of Maryland, which can provide a quick and accessible location for people to use during emergencies in order to better help the citizens of Maryland.
- **(Sponsor) Homevisiting Accountability Act of 2012** This bill was proposed in order to align the state of Maryland's laws for homevisiting programs with the federal government. This act enhances Maryland's standing in the competition for new federal homevisiting funds, which in turn help Maryland's children and families.

Delegate Tom Hucker (District 20):

- Stormwater runoff is the only major source of Chesapeake Bay pollution that is still increasing every year. HB 987 requires local governments to have a stormwater management fund just as our county has. The funds from this fee would go towards infrastructure projects that cut down on harmful runoff eroding into the Bay. The bill saw final passage late on Sine Die after over 4 years.
- Human trafficking is one of the most odious crimes in our state. Two years ago, I successfully sponsored HB 1322, which requires certain hotels and motels to post signs in each guest room that lists the National Human Trafficking Hotline number. This year's HB 607 expands that posting requirement to highway rest stops and truck stops, which are also frequently used by traffickers.
- Runoff from poultry litter introduces 30,000 pounds of arsenic into the Bay and our waterways each year. Delegate Hucker's HB 167 bans poultry companies from using arsenical feed additives for the safety of our food and environment. Together with Food & Water Watch, the Chesapeake Bay Fund, the Maryland NAACP and other advocates the Assembly passed the bill after 3 years.

- Delegate Hucker introduced this bill to crack down on asbestos-removal companies that were blatantly violating safety standards. This bill increases certification standards, raises the penalties for violations, and establishes the Asbestos Worker Protection Fund.

Delegate Anne Kaiser (District 14):

- **Maintenance of Effort:** As a key sponsor and floor leader of this landmark bill, I am proud to have helped ensure that all public school students in Maryland have an adequate and equitable education. This bill makes certain that counties meet their obligation to students while providing flexibility in local budgets during tough economic times by reaffirming the state and county education funding partnership.
- **Compulsory Age:** As chair of the influential education subcommittee I led a group who rewrote groundbreaking legislation and spearheaded debate on the floor of the House of Delegates that increases the compulsory age of education in Maryland. The age will increase gradually towards the age of 18. This incremental approach allows time to investigate and implement supportive infrastructure to ensure that this comprehensive reform remains meaningful. This change in the law will make it clear that in Maryland, education matters and we won't give up on any child.
- **Marriage:** After years of supporting the right of same-sex couples to marry, and passing smaller bills to help provide equity LGBT Marylanders, I am proud that, with the support of Governor Martin O'Malley, we finally passed into law the civil rights issue of this generation. I anticipate that the marriage issue will face the final hurdle of a voter referendum in 2012.
- **My bills:** I introduced and passed 4 bills into law, that: expand scholarship opportunities for spouses of veterans with 100% service-related disability; streamline special education meeting procedures for teachers and parents to ensure full equity and involvement of both parties; study guidance counselor's tasks and work burden to better understand their role in promoting college readiness; and studies the ideal size for schools to increase student access to every facet of school life. My bond bill for Woodlawn Barn is bringing back \$300,000 and new jobs to the district.

Delegate Ariana Kelly (District 16):

- As lead sponsor, passed legislation (HB1055) that will expand insurance coverage for children with **Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD's)**. The legislation also establishes a Technical Advisory Group on ASD coverage within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and requires regulations on appropriate coverage be promulgated under the existing Habilitative Services law.
- HB1055 also expands and clarifies required insurance coverage for children with conditions including Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, and Developmental Disabilities. It requires the Department of Education and the Insurance Administration to determine how children with birth defects can best access needed Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech Therapy services.
- Introduced bipartisan legislation (HB1056) to increase childbirth options for women across Maryland by **licensing Certified Professional Midwives**. This would lift a 32 year-old ban on midwives attending births at home and birth centers. A workgroup will be held this summer to examine how 26 other states safely regulate this reproductive option which is in growing demand in Maryland.
- Secured \$275,000 **funding for the Katherine Thomas School**. This school educates children with special needs across Maryland with moderate to severe learning and language disabilities. With the state funding, the school will be able to make much needed improvements to the school building ensuring that the children are learning in a safe environment.

Delegate Eric Luedtke (District 14):

- During the regular 2011 Legislative Session, the General Assembly passed a bill that provided a tuition waiver for community college students with disabilities. Unfortunately, in doing so, continuing education instruction designed to lead to employment was no longer exempt for these students. This Session, I passed HB53, which corrects this error, restoring life skills instruction to the exemption.
- Working with advocates from the deaf community, Delegate Luedtke passed HB 390, which creates a task force to study the establishment of a deaf culture digital library. This library would educate individuals about deaf cultures in the United States and other countries, and would be the first of its kind in the state.
- Passed HB 757, which brings Maryland's education statute into compliance with federal law as it pertains to youth in foster care. This bill will allow youth in foster care to remain in their current school, providing them with some consistency and stability in their educational experience.

Delegate Aruna Miller (District 15):

- House Bill 1272 prohibits the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors. An **electronic cigarette** is a device that simulates the act of smoking by producing a nicotine mist. The sale of these devices has been growing at a rate of 200% per year and recently has been targeted to minors with novelty flavors such as bubble gum, fudge, buttered popcorn and cookie dough. HB1272 provides measure to prevent companies from introducing these addictive products to minors.
- House Bill 589 controls the dangerous substance Mephedrone. With catchy names like Cloud Nine & Vanilla Sky, Mephedrone is often sold as "bath salts" in convenience stores, tobacco shops to any individual including minors. Mephedrone is not meant for bathing, but rather when snorted or smoked is powerful hallucinogen which causes delusional often violent behavior. HB 589 bans possession, sale or use of this dangerous substance.

Delegate Heather Mizeur (District 20):

- **Winning marriage equality** – This year, Maryland became the eighth state in the nation to pass marriage equality. Championed by Delegate Mizeur since she joined the legislature, the Civil Marriage Protection Act extends hundreds of marriage rights and protections to same-sex couples.
- **Investing in Montgomery County's future** – Montgomery College surpassed UMCP as the largest undergraduate institution in the state, and Universities at Shady Grove is a key education gateway for STEM learners. To support these institutions critical to training our workforce, Delegate Mizeur secured budget language committing the state to investing in science and student services capital projects at these institutions.
- **Renewable energy for all Maryland families** – State programs help Marylanders purchase solar, wind, and geothermal renewable energy systems, but these options are not affordable for most families. To help working families switch to a less expensive renewable heating source, Heather secured an agreement with the Maryland Energy Administration to create a pilot program for families to upgrade to affordable biomass renewable heating systems.
- **Combating crime, reducing recidivism** – Improved communication with families leading up to an inmate's release has proven to reduce recidivism and combat crime rates. Unfortunately, economic conditions make it challenging to visit incarcerated family members in distant correctional facilities. Heather secured an agreement with the state corrections department to create a video visitation program at Maryland's correctional facilities.

Delegate Kirill Reznik (District 39):

- **Small Business Procurement:** HB 456 / SB 549 expands the Small Business Reserve Program to help Maryland-based small businesses win state contracts when they wouldn't otherwise be able to compete with larger companies. This will help to create local jobs and stimulate the Maryland economy by supporting small homegrown businesses.
- **Handling Human Remains with Dignity Act:** HB 540 / SB 415 creates stricter regulations for the handling of human remains. It establishes requirements for the proper handling of the body of a decedent by funeral establishments and crematories. This measure is in direct response to recent scandals involving the treatment of remains of Maryland veterans awaiting burial at Arlington National Cemetery.
- **Investment Activities with Iran:** HB 440 / SB 235 debars entities engaging in investment activities with Iran from entering into a contract with the State. As the U.S. and its allies pressure Iran with economic sanctions because of the nuclear weapons ambitions, it is important for Maryland to support our nation's efforts.
- **E-Waste Reform:** HB 448 creates standards for the purchasing of electronics and recycling of electronic waste by the state government. This legislation requires the State to contract for electronics recycling only with nationally or internationally certified recyclers to ensure that harmful equipment or chemicals are not dumped domestically or abroad.

Delegate Shane Robinson (District 39):

- House Bill 425 requires companies doing business with Maryland to source their minerals from mines that benefit rather than destroy communities. Delegate Robinson feels there is no good reason for companies to purchase minerals from mines in the Congo that fuel the decades old conflict there, the deadliest since World War II, and that we have a responsibility to not be a cog in the wheel that finances the Congolese militias. Maryland is the second state to enact conflict minerals legislation.
- House Bill 67 codifies that intersections with non-functioning traffic signals be treated as four-way stops. Delegate Robinson feels this is a common sense solution to a serious traffic safety issue, and is pleased it was addressed this session.

Delegate Jeff Waldstreicher (District 18):

- As Chair of the Estates and Trusts Subcommittee, Delegate Waldstreicher sponsored and passed four bills (House Bills 772, 773, 774, and 822) to reduce bureaucracy and make estate planning easier for middle-class families.
- A member of the Judiciary Committee, Delegate Waldstreicher led the committee's efforts to pass marriage equality in Maryland. This legislation passed both chambers and has been signed into law by the Governor.
- As the House of Delegates' appointee to the Task Force on Prisoner Reentry, Delegate Waldstreicher led the charge on significant prison reforms to reduce recidivism, promote public safety, and save taxpayer dollars.
- A longtime advocate for Maryland's children, Delegate Waldstreicher authored legislation to significantly increase federal funding for our child support system and dramatically improve collection of past-due child

support from deadbeat parents. This bill has passed both the House and Senate and awaits the Governor's signature.

Delegate Craig Zucker (District 14):

- Passed a foreclosure relief bill, the Maryland Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act (House Bill 600), that prevents underwater homeowners who go through foreclosure or are refinancing their homes from being hit by additional state taxes
- Passed the Child Identity Lock bill (House Bill 555), a first-of-its-kind piece of legislation which gives parents the ability to freeze their child's credit in order to prevent them from having their identities stolen
- Advanced Maryland's public safety infrastructure by passing legislation that helps the state move towards Next Generation 911 (House Bill 1235), which will allow emergency personnel to take advantage of 21st century communication technologies such as text messaging, streaming video and other data
- As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, worked with the District 14 team to procure more than \$600,000 in state funds for local initiatives including money to renovate the Olney Police Satellite Station

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