

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sara Hartman 410-841-3018

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DELEGATION COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

County Legislators Lead the Way On Historic Wins For the County and State

ANNAPOLIS, April 9, 2019 – The 32-member Montgomery County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly yesterday concluded a successful 2019 legislative session.

Montgomery County legislators on the Appropriations and Budget & Taxation Committees led the way in securing \$500 million for statewide school construction funding, the largest state contribution to school construction in the history of the Maryland General Assembly. The funds include dollars dedicated to Montgomery County because of its high enrollment growth. The Delegation also brought back more than \$119 million in additional state resources to support critical capital projects throughout the County (see attached list). Capital Budget Subcommittee members from Montgomery County include **Senator Craig Zucker** (District 14), **Delegate Kirill Reznik** (District 39), and **Delegate Marc Korman** (District 16).

“This session the Senate Delegation stood together to secure record breaking education funding for our County,” said Senate Delegation Chair Craig Zucker (District 14).

“Montgomery County entered the 2019 legislative session with our most diverse membership ever, including ten new Delegates, and several members serving as Committee Chairs, Subcommittee Chairs, Majority Leader, Caucus Chair and Parliamentarian,” said House Delegation Chair Marc Korman (District 16), “That deep bench of talent and leadership allowed us to have numerous legislative successes.”

Members of the Delegation led on a number of policy issues in the state and made an impact in the lives of Montgomery County residents. Some signature legislative accomplishments led by Delegation members include:

- **The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future (SB 1030)**: Led by Ways and Means Committee **Chair Anne Kaiser** (District 14) and Education Subcommittee **Chair Eric Luedtke** (District 14), the bill implements the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission and is expected to direct over \$24 million in additional education funds to Montgomery County for pre-kindergarten, teacher pay, special education, and other education programs. Other legislators from the four committees that led consideration of the legislation include **Senator Cheryl Kagan** (District 17), **Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr** (District 17), and **Delegate Gabriel Acevero** (District 39). Part of the funding for the legislation was paid for by a provision in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (HB 1407) that kept over \$16 million per year in the Education Trust Fund by prohibiting the state

from transferring millions of dollars from the Education Trust Fund to casinos in our state. The provision was championed by **Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins** (District 20). The legislation is awaiting action by the Governor.

- **Childcare Tax Credit (HB 810/SB 870)**: Led by primary sponsors **Delegate Ariana Kelly** (District 16) and **Senator Nancy King** (District 39), the legislation expands the childcare tax credit to address the high cost of child care in Montgomery County for working families. The bill is awaiting action by the Governor.
- **Fight for Fifteen (HB 166)**: Montgomery County's Economic Matters Committee Members, including **Majority Leader Kathleen Dumais** (District 15), and **Delegate Lily Qi** (District 15), led the way in passing an increase in the state minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour by 2026. In the Senate, **Senator Ben Kramer** (District 19) on the Finance Committee helped advance the legislation. The bill was passed into law over the Governor's veto.
- **Clean Energy Jobs Act (SB 516)**: Led in the Senate by sponsor Finance Committee **Vice Chair Brian Feldman** (District 15) and in the House by floor leader **Delegate Lorig Charkoudian** (District 20), the Clean Energy Jobs Act will increase the state's renewable portfolio standard, the amount of electricity in the state obtained from renewable sources. The legislation awaits action by the Governor.
- **Summer SNAP for Children Act (HB 338)**: **Delegate Pam Queen** (District 14) sponsored HB 338 to expand the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program for students during the summer to ensure our most at risk and neediest young people are supported. The bill is currently on the Governor's desk awaiting action.
- **Prescription Drug Affordability Board (HB 768)**: Health & Pharmaceuticals Subcommittee **Chair Bonnie Cullison** (District 19) presented and defended legislation on the House floor to control the high cost of prescription drugs in Maryland. Another member of the Health and Government Operations Committee who worked on the bill was **Delegate Al Carr** (District 18). The bill awaits action by the Governor.
- **Firearm Safety**: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and House Judiciary Committee, including Senate Committee **Vice Chair Will Smith** (District 20), **Senator Susan Lee** (District 16), **Senator Jeff Waldstreicher** (District 18), **Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield** (District 19), **Delegate David Moon** (District 20), **Delegate Lesley Lopez** (District 39), and **Delegate Emily Shetty** (District 18), were involved in the successful passage of several pieces of firearm safety legislation, including legislation to eliminate the politically appointed handgun permit review board (SB 1000) in favor of a judicial process to review such applications.
- **Public Private Partnership**: Numerous members of the Montgomery County Delegation advocated for legislation to improve oversight and transparency regarding the Governor's proposal to widen I-495 and I-270. The House passed legislation (HB 1091) sponsored by **Delegate Jared Solomon** (District 18) under the leadership of Environment and Transportation Committee **Chair Kumar Barve** (District 17) and supported by committee members **Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo** (District 15), **Delegate Sara Love** (District 16), **Delegate Jim Gilchrist** (District 17), and **Delegate Vaughn Stewart**

(District 19). The state budget also contains legislative intent language regarding the process for the project.

These statewide bills all require the cooperation and support of numerous members from Montgomery County and across the state and represent only a snapshot of the legislation Montgomery County legislators fought for in their committees and on the House and Senate floors.

The Montgomery County Delegation also considered 36 bills affecting only Montgomery and, in some cases, Montgomery and Prince George's County. 19 of those bills are now awaiting action by the Governor. A complete list of local bills is available at: <http://montgomerycountydelegation.com/legislation.html>. For the first time in the 2019 legislative session, the public was able to watch the Delegation's weekly meetings online.

###