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THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DELEGATION
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Montgomery County Delegation 2010 Session Member Accomplishments

Montgomery County Senate Delegation:

Senator Richard Madaleno (District 18), Chair, Montgomery County Senate Delegation:

- Led the fight for marriage equality in the Maryland Senate. Sen. Madaleno asked Attorney General Doug Gansler for the opinion that would recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states and led the fight against attempts to undo the opinion.
- Passed SB 828, which allows for greater flexibility when enacting special taxing districts for transportation projects. This bill could allow for greater funding for transportation improvements in our county.
- Working with the county delegation and the leadership of the county government and school system, secured full funding of all mandated education aid programs, including the foundation program, GCEI and the at-risk student categories. The FY11 state budget includes \$696 million to support the Montgomery County Public School System, the highest amount ever.
- Helped lead the effort to fight off further reductions to service providers for people with developmental disabilities and mental illnesses. Also, helped craft the successful proposal to enhance the rate review commission for these service providers to ensure adequate funding in the future.

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

- Eco-Friendly Legislation: **Green Maryland Act** establishes a green procurement policy and a Green Purchasing Committee for all state agencies. **3 foot Bike Buffer:** Requires motorists to give cyclists a 3 foot buffer when passing on a roadway. **HOV Exemption** for plug-in electric vehicles to use HOV lanes for a 3-year period.
- **Fairness in Negotiations:** Establishes a Public School Labor Relations Board to administer and enforce the labor relations laws for local boards of education and their employees. It is modeled after the very successful state Higher Education Labor Relations Board.
- Fair and Affordable Housing: **Homestead Tax Credit** establishes a state level homestead exemption in bankruptcy proceedings, equal to the federal exemption of \$21,625. **Affordable Housing Land Trusts** allows non-profits and local governments to set up trusts for affordable housing for low or moderate-income purchasers.
- **Voter pre-registration:** This bill lowers and standardizes the voter registration age to 16 so that all high school students will have the opportunity to register before they graduate from high school. Also included in

this legislation is a modification to the date for changing party affiliation to be the same date as the last day to register to vote.

Senator Jennie M. Forehand (District 17):

- Senator Forehand introduced the following bills which, when signed into law, will do the following:
 - **Save millions in police overtime** for budget-strapped cities, towns, and counties by requiring traffic violators to request a trial before a hearing is scheduled. Fewer officers will be waiting in traffic court for “no show” violators and instead will be on the street fighting crime.
 - **Fight human trafficking** by increasing the penalty for trafficking adults and expanding the law to go after peripheral players such as drivers, doormen, and others who profit from sexual slavery.
 - Improve police **investigation of identity theft** by developing a standardized crime reporting form to capture uniform data from victims. This will allow police to better share information to track identity thieves across the state and, with the Federal Trade Commission, across the country.
 - **Expand freedom-of-speech protections** under Maryland’s law against Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP). Now groups voicing concerns on issues of public interest as well as on matters before a government body will be protected against intimidating, costly lawsuits.
- **Funding for priorities** from Garrett Park (Garrett Park Nursery School), Gaithersburg (Identity House), and Rockville (Senior Fitness Center).
- Establishing State support for **Child Advocacy Centers** throughout Maryland to investigate, diagnose and treat children who have been victims of abuse or neglect.

Senator Brian E. Frosh (District 16):

- Secured passage of a ban on Bisphenol A in food and drink containers for toddlers. BPA, a compound found in many plastics, has long been thought to be linked to breast and prostate cancer, diabetes, heart disease, early puberty, and hyperactivity.
- Sponsored legislation updating the guidelines courts use to set child support payments when divorcing parents can't agree on support levels. The guidelines hadn't been revised since they were introduced in 1989.
- Sponsored legislation securing funds for Maryland Legal Services Corporation, which helps low-income people in civil cases. MLSC depends substantially on investment income. Its budget has suffered due to the recession at the same time that caseloads have increased. The bill temporarily increases several court filing fees.
- Introduced legislation that will make it possible for roadside produce stands such as Country Thyme to operate legally in State highway rights-of-ways.

Senator Rob Garagiola (District 15):

- **Led Effort to Promote Clean, Renewable Energy.**
 - **Public/Private Partnership for Renewable Energy.** Successfully sponsored SB 791 to make it easier for Maryland schools and State agencies to obtain solar and other renewable energy.
 - **Fuel Cell Energy.** Successfully sponsored SB 529 to promote clean fuel cell energy use in Maryland.
 - **Governor’s Solar Energy Expansion.** Effectively led Senate floor debate on, and passage of, SB 277 to expand solar energy use in Maryland, building on Senator Garagiola’s 2007 solar energy bill.

• **Economic Development and Transportation.**

- **Bioscience Education Center Funding.** Secured final \$16 million in capital funding for the Bioscience Education Center at Montgomery College in Germantown, which will lead to additional bioscience classroom and lab space.
- **Transportation Funding.** Successfully sponsored SB 229 to establish a Blue Ribbon Commission on Maryland Transportation Funding to meet future transportation needs.
- **Pension Investment in Biotech, IT, and Green Tech.** Successfully sponsored SB 793 to require the state pension board to report on investments in biotech, IT, and green technology.

• **Healthcare and Workplace.**

- **Physician Reimbursement and Patient Protections.** Successfully sponsored SB 314 to ensure fair physician reimbursement, and increase disclosure and limit excessive billing to patients.
- **Germantown Emergency Department.** Successfully sponsored SB 593 to provide additional Medicare and Medicaid payments to maintain the viability of the Germantown Emergency Department.
- **Healthy Retail Employee Act.** Successfully sponsored SB 789 to ensure work breaks for certain retail employees.

Senator Nancy J. King (District 39):

• Senator King sponsored a bill requiring insurance companies who provide for annual preventive care to cover these services once per plan year. This legislation will allow consumers the flexibility to schedule appointments on their terms and not worry whether a full year has passed since their last exam or test. This practical solution for our citizens will help encourage the scheduling of these important preventive care exams.

• In 2009, a two year old foster child in Gaithersburg, Angel Duenas, died from strangulation on a window blind cord in his foster home. Senator King sponsored the bill, **Angel's Law**, which will require foster homes, day care homes and child care centers to remove or modify corded window treatments. Passage of this bill now provides an increased level of safety in the places that we entrust the care of our children.

• Senator King successfully introduced legislation which waives the Maintenance of Effort requirement for 2010. Passage of this bill saved Montgomery County from a \$23.4 million penalty and also requires a study of policy issues related to MOE. This legislation ensures that Montgomery County does not lose much-needed funds in this economic downturn, while continuing to encourage counties to strengthen funding for their school systems.

• Along with passing state-wide legislation, Senator King was successful in securing funding for four important District 39 projects. They include safety lighting upgrades in Cinnamon Woods; the installation of a pavilion with picnic tables in Martin Roy Park; landscaping and stabilization of Lake Whetstone hillside in South Village and repairs to group homes dedicated to adults diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Senator Rona E. Kramer (District 14):

• **Income Tax Checkoff for Developmental Disabilities** – starting next year voluntary contributions can be made to fund the waiting list and services for the developmentally disabled.

• **Assisted Living and Nursing Home Residents Protection Act** – Expands the duties of the Sexual Offender Advisory Board to include reviewing policies, procedures, and making recommendations relating to protecting nursing homes residents and employees from residents who are convicted sexual offenders.

Senator Mike Lenett (District 19):

- After a four-year battle, co-led the effort to finally pass legislation to **Prohibit the Use of Hand-Held Cell Phones While Driving**. The bill will make our roads safer for drivers and pedestrians, save lives, and increase public awareness of the dangers of distracted driving.
- Passed a bill to ensure **Proper Funding for Developmentally Disabled Individuals** based on their health condition and needs, especially as those conditions and needs change over time; passed another bill to provide for **Voting Rights for Disabled Individuals Under Guardianship**, removing the automatic voting disqualification in current law.
- Led the effort in the Senate to bring all relevant government agencies and stakeholders together to develop a **Comprehensive Energy Plan** for the State. The Governor will soon be issuing an Executive Order directing the initiative. This was one of the top priorities of the environmental community, which hopes the Plan will promote the use of clean, renewable sources of energy.
- Passed bills to: protect tenants caught in foreclosures, investigate the impact of private investment in nursing homes on quality of care, increase penalties against employers that deny workers their overtime wages, prohibit sex offenders from attending the same school as the victim, and create the Communities for a Lifetime Commission to promote aging in place.

Montgomery County House Delegation:

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

- In collaboration with Sen. Raskin (D-20), introduced and gained passage of innovative legislation to create a new corporate status called a “Benefit” or “B Corporation.” This first-in-the-nation legislation will allow companies to officially incorporate a public welfare ethic into their charter. Hundreds of companies from around the country seeking to take advantage of this unique elective status may choose to incorporate in Maryland. The election is entirely voluntary and must be approved by a 2/3 shareholder vote;
- Introduced and gained passage of legislation to update, clarify and modernize our corporate laws in several important areas. These updates will allow Maryland corporations to compete more effectively with businesses incorporated in other states;
- Introduced and gained passage of a bill that authorizes the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development to make an equity investment in companies that do business in Maryland, consistent with certain investment guidelines and other restrictions. The legislation will provide an important additional economic development tool for Montgomery County as it seeks to attract and retain companies.

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

- HB 778: Makes it crime to gain unauthorized access to government computer networks to sabotage, interrupt, or impair state government, utilities, or public service companies operations, which can paralyze or devastate the government, economy, transit systems, first responders, public safety systems, public utilities, and vital infrastructures.
- HB 795: Task Force to Study Nanobiotechnology to create a Road Map for making Maryland No. 1 in Nanobio and create jobs and lifesaving medical treatments for cancer & other serious diseases; generate

revenues; help companies transfer research to product & protect intellectual properties; promote public/private partnerships; and leverage federal funds.

- **HB 785:** Requires Police Training Commission with Attorney General's Office, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention & Federal Trade Commission to develop a Uniform Identity Fraud Reporting Form & make data available to state and local law enforcement agencies, & FTC Consumer Sentinel Program to investigate, prosecute, & track Identity Fraud and enable victims to obtain available relief under federal & state laws.
- **HB 799:** Provide police with better tools to assist Identity Fraud and child exploitation victims in obtaining effective relief by requiring Police Training Commission curriculum on victims' rights, notices, services, and support available under state law; and the notification of Identity Fraud and related crimes victims of their rights under federal law.

Delegate Charles Barkley (District 39):

- Chief sponsor of **HB 821 – Net Energy Metering – Fuel Cell** which passed both chambers by a unanimous vote. I'm very excited about this bill as it has the potential of providing Marylanders with another source of lower cost energy that is environmentally friendly. The fuel cell will join solar panels and wind turbines as a reliable cost saving alternative to traditional power sources.
- Chief sponsor of **HB 825 – Vehicle Laws – Required Security – Minimum Amounts** which also passed both chambers. **HB 825** raises the basic amount of liability insurance that one must carry on a vehicle. Current law requires \$20,000 for bodily injury or death of a single individual and \$40,000 for two or more individuals. **HB 825** increases the \$20,000 to \$30,000 and the \$40,000 to \$60,000. The original amounts were enacted in 1972 to cover medical bills, lost wages and pain and suffering. Under the current levels, many victims are not even able to cover their medical expenses. This change will **only** affect individuals who carry basic coverage.
- I cosponsored and strongly supported Governor O'Malley's bill **SB 106 (HB 92) – Job Creation and Recovery Tax Credit** bill which provides tax credits for businesses that hire unemployed workers. This bill provides a **\$5,000** tax credit per employee for businesses who hire an unemployed worker between now and December 31, 2010. Each employer could claim a maximum of \$250,000 in tax credits. A total of **\$20 million** in credits was approved in the FY2011 budget.

Delegate William A. Bronrott (District 16):

- **Drug and Alcohol Abuse:** HB 219 formally establishes the Maryland State Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council to provide comprehensive coordination of substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment services, and improve the criminal justice and correctional systems' links to these services.
- **Green Buildings:** HB 1044 requires community college capital projects that receive state funds to comply with the state's High Performance Buildings Act that presently covers state government buildings, K-12 schools, and the University System of Maryland
- **Local Project:** The FY11 capital budget included a \$250,000 bond bill for the National Center for Children and Families' Youth Activities Center in Bethesda.
- **Unfinished Business – Alcohol Excise Tax:** Sponsored legislation seeking a 10-cent-a-drink alcohol tax increase to fund services for Marylanders with developmental disabilities, mental illness, and drug-alcohol addiction.

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

- Building on his experience as a smart growth advocate and businessman, Delegate Carr successfully championed two bills that will help create jobs and encourage investment in older commercial areas in Montgomery County and across the state. The State of Maryland and Montgomery County designated the Wheaton business district as an enterprise zone in 1998 and renewed it in 2009. **House Bill 861** gives Montgomery County the authority to expand the tax credit program to include more types of businesses such as those who are tenants and those rehabilitating an existing property. **House Bill 1163** increases the number of enterprise zone designations or renewals permitted by the State of Maryland from one per county per year to two. These two bills await the Governor's signature.

- Continuing his work on public safety and sustainable transportation solutions, Delegate Carr worked with Sen. Frosh to successfully champion a bill to improve Maryland's bicycling laws. With the passage of **House Bill 1193** and its companion **Senate Bill 624**, Maryland joins 44 other states in giving bicyclists greater flexibility to ride where they feel safest on roads with shoulders. This bill has been a top priority of the bicycling advocacy community for a number of years.

- Del. Carr believes in the principle that the public has the right to know what its government is doing and why. Capping off more than a year of hard work with government transparency advocates, the press, state agencies, the Attorney General's office and local governments, he is proud that the House of Delegates unanimously passed **House Bill 1301**. This bill updates Maryland's sunshine law, the Maryland Public Information Act to require that public agencies share public documents in their original electronic format. The passage of this measure will improve government transparency and conform Maryland's law to that of 24 other states and the federal government.

Delegate Kathleen M. Dumais (District 15):

- Introduced and secured final passage of a bill that provides adequate funding for the Maryland Legal Services Corporation Fund. This fund helps to finance legal assistance for Maryland's neediest citizens. HB 106/SB 248 will assure access to justice for those who are served by organizations such as House of Ruth, Legal Aid Bureau, Sexual Assault Legal Institute, and Maryland Disability Law Center.

- Collaborated in securing final passage of the Maryland Power of Attorney Act, which simplifies the process whereby citizens assign the management of their affairs to someone they trust should they become incapacitated in the future. Very importantly, this Act provides for a standard form that is accepted by all banks.

- Achieved success in updating the Child Support Guidelines for the first time in 22 years, thus assuring that a parent's contribution to child support will better reflect the current costs of providing for children. The aim of the new guidelines is that both parents more equitably share the real costs of raising a child.

- Sponsored and achieved final passage of HB 811, which authorizes a citizen to make a report if he or she believes that a parent, guardian, or caregiver allows a child to live or regularly associate with a registered sex offender. The citizen must believe the child is in current danger of being sexually abused. Upon receiving the report, authorities must take action to investigate and to protect the child.

Delegate C. William Frick (District 16):

- Lead sponsor of **HB 1206** legislation designed to give consumers seeking refund anticipation loans (short term loans tied to the consumer's anticipated tax refund) clear disclosure of all fees and terms associated with this high-interest loan.
- Introduced legislation, **HB 1325**, which would encourage the state to use small local banks instead of Wall Street banks for state banking business. By banking locally, Maryland would inject cash into the banks that make loans to local businesses, allowing state funds to grow jobs in our communities.
- Lead sponsor of **HB 611** legislation which will allow Country Thyme farm stand to continue operating on River Road.
- Helped to secure funding for the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes to continue caring for some of our most vulnerable citizens and funding for the National Center for Children and Families.

Delegate Ana Sol Gutiérrez (District 18):

- The major accomplishment this session was working with the House Appropriations Committee to prepare a balanced 2011 Operating Budget, especially after receiving significantly lower State and local revenue projections for 2010 and 2011 due to the slow recovery and continuation of a national economic crisis.
- Serving on the House Health and Human Resources Subcommittee, I worked hard to protect funding levels for welfare programs and health and human services for the most vulnerable in our society, including the poor, needy children and families, the unemployed, the uninsured, as well as developmentally disabled individuals.
- Worked with other progressive legislators to reject extremist anti-immigrant proposals that would have required proof of lawful presence prior to the delivery of any state or local service, including emergency medical care, social services, and rescue services in case of fire or accidents.

Delegate Henry B. Heller (District 19):

- **HB 766/SB 348: Capital Debt Affordability, HB 834/SB 208: State Treasurer – Permissible Investments – Linked Deposit Program, HB 839/SB 347: Political Subdivisions – Financial Reports, and HB 1446/SB 1046: Bonds Supported by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

These are a set of bills that I sponsored on behalf of the Treasurer as part of my House Chairmanship on the Joint Committee on the Management of Public Funds.

- **HB 1448: Creation of a State Debt - Montgomery County - Threshold Services Group Home Renovation**

This bill authorizes that creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$50,000 to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of the Threshold Services, Inc. for the repair, renovation, and reconstruction of various group homes located in Montgomery County.

- **HB 1559: Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2006 - Montgomery County - Our House Youth Home**

This bill amends the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2006 to extend the date by which the Board of Directors of Our House Youth Home, Inc must present evidence that a specified matching fund will be provided.

Delegate Sheila E. Hixson (District 20) – Chair, Ways and Means Committee:

Delegate Sheila E. Hixson – Top Legislative Accomplishments:

- HB 176 Public Schools – Student Information – Availability to Military Recruiters: protects private student information collected during the administration of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) from being disclosed to military recruiters without the consent of parents and students.
- HB 223 Maintenance of Effort – Penalty: waives the maintenance of effort penalty for fiscal year 2010 and requires the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee and the House Ways & Means Committee to study the maintenance of effort requirement and penalties and report to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2010.
- HB 243 Fairness in Negotiations: establishes as an independent unit of State government a Public School Labor Relations Board to assume specified duties previously held by the State Board of Education; requiring the Board to hear controversies and disputes and establishes that decisions by the Public School Labor Relations Board are final.
- HB 413 Instruction of Blind and Visually Impaired Students: requires that by September 1, 2012, the State Board of Education will establish standards for the mastery of Braille for instruction in English, language arts and mathematics for blind or visually impaired students as they progress from pre-kindergarten through grade 12.

Delegate Tom Hucker (District 20):

- 90% of brain development occurs before age 5. HB 350 shows bipartisan support for expanding pre-kindergarten, and makes Maryland a strong candidate for a federal Early Education Challenge grant to dramatically expand pre-K. Pre-K is the best way to keep our #1 ranking in education by ensuring every child is ready to excel in grades K-12.
- Human trafficking is rapidly growing and forces victims into a life of prostitution and slavery. Rockville and Silver Spring have seen major busts recently. HB 1322 fights human trafficking by requiring hotels and motels that have had criminal activity to post the National Human Trafficking Hotline behind the door of every room.
- HB 1250 protects homeowners, environmentalists and civic associations from SLAPP suits (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) – frivolous lawsuits intended to intimidate. SLAPP suits are increasingly used by developers and other large corporations to silence homeowners who complain about developments or pollution.
- HB 953 would ban the idiotic practice of adding arsenic to chicken feed. About 75% of chickens sold in Maryland have had arsenic added to their feed. Some arsenic remains in the chicken, where it causes cancer, heart disease and diabetes in consumers. Most arsenic ends up in chicken waste in the Chesapeake Bay and spread on fields as fertilizer.

Delegate Benjamin F. Kramer (District 19):

- The Reverse Mortgage Homeowners Protection Act establishes strict provisions governing reverse mortgage loans and protects senior homeowners from being financially exploited.

- Environmental Management of Road Salts and Best Practices Guidance makes Maryland the first state in the nation to address the damaging and toxic effects that road salts are having on our freshwater ecosystems, soil, vegetation, wildlife, and drinking water.
- Telephone Bills – Third Party Vendor Billing will end the practice of placing an unapproved charge on a person’s phone bill for a service or item that the consumer never requested.
- Insurance Producers – Use of Senior or Retiree Credential or Designation creates a legitimate educational and training standard before insurance agents can represent themselves as specialists in senior or retirement investing in the sale of annuities, life or health insurance.

Delegate Roger Manno (District 19):

- OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH: After four years of introduction, I successfully secured the passage of the Healthy Retail Employee Act (HB1299), guaranteeing adequate “shift breaks” for Maryland employees in the retail sector. This bill has been a key priority of United Food and Commercial Workers (Local 400), AFL-CIO, and Progressive Maryland.
- COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL / ENERGY PLANNING: I authored HB522 to require comprehensive energy planning in Maryland, ensuring a clean, reliable and affordable energy future. The focus of the "Smart Energy Now!" campaign of League of Conservation Voters, Environment Maryland, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, and Sierra Club, the bill became the blueprint for the Governor’s executive order.
- REPORT OF THE WORKGROUP ON GENETIC TESTING: Following the passage of my “Genetic Nondiscrimination Act” (HB29) in 2008, I served on the Heredity & Congenital Disorders Advisory Committee and the Workgroup on Genetic Testing, and submitted a comprehensive Report to the General Assembly.
- TEACHER PENSIONS: Shifting pension costs from the State to the counties would cost Montgomery at least \$160 million each year. So, I introduced the “Teacher and Employee Pension Sustainability and Solvency Trust Fund” (HB10), to maintain funding at the State level, while fully meeting our obligations to our retirees. While no pension bills passed, HB10 is the only legislative solution that does not transfer costs or cut benefits.

Delegate Heather R. Mizeur (District 20):

- **Kids First Express Lane Eligibility Act (HB 1375)** – There are 123,000 Maryland children currently uninsured; almost 100,000 qualify for public health coverage today. This bill takes advantage of a new federal enrollment option that uses tax information to more effectively target and enroll uninsured children.
- **Access to preventive care (HB 878)** – This legislation prohibits insurers from denying coverage for preventive care if an entire year has not elapsed since a previous visit, removing a potential barrier that causes individuals to put off receiving preventive care. Consumers will no longer have to “calendar-watch” when they schedule a check-up or wellness visit.
- **Maryland Open Government Act (HB344)** – To ensure the voices of everyday Marylanders are heard and information about our work is as accessible as possible, this legislation would post committee votes online, webcast committee hearings, allow for online sign-up to testify, and make the state website free for all. This legislation was referred to summer study.

Delegate Karen S. Montgomery (District 14):

- HB 933 protects families from losing their homes due to hospital bills. Maryland has the 13th highest medical foreclosure rate in the U.S. While eligible individuals may receive reduced-cost care, all patients must be informed of possible sources of financial help and financial costs. The hospital is also protected because it may place a lien on the home.
- HB 900 Developmental Disabilities Administration - Recipient Reevaluations states that any recipient of Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) services can be reevaluated upon request to determine their needs or funding levels. If denied, they must be notified of the reason behind the denial, as well as instructions on the appeal process.
- DHMH proposed the establishment of a clinical Lyme disease research center that would be affiliated with an academic institution. This is a result of consolidating my HB 2 Public Health – Lyme Disease - Record of Reported Cases and the other two Lyme disease bills introduced this session.
- A summer study has been established as a result of HB 1391 Education – Student-Athletes – Concussion. The bill would have increased awareness of health risks related to concussions, and required the State Department of Education and other involved organizations to develop and implement a program.

Delegate Kirill Reznik (District 39):

- **Procurement** – HB 531 extends a Task Force needed study the State procurement process with non-profit organizations to make the process more efficient. HB 647 exempts the Civic Justice Corps from the existing state procurement process, providing summer jobs and outdoor enrichment programs for at-risk youth on public lands.
- **Children Health and Safety** – HB 646, titled “Angel’s Law,” requires new or replacement window coverings to be cordless in foster homes, family day care homes, and child care centers. House Bill 1017 requires health insurance coverage for visits for childhood obesity evaluation and treatment and visits for developmental testing.
- **Medical Facilities** – HB 870 requires that elective cosmetic surgery be performed at an accredited facility out of safety concerns. HB 699 requires rates set for hospital services provided at freestanding medical facilities, including the facility in Germantown operated by Adventist Healthcare, so they can stop operating at a loss.
- **Capital Budget Funding** – Helped secure \$100,000 to the Board of Directors of the Cinnamon Woods Homes Association, Inc. in Germantown for lighting upgrades and \$100,000 for the Board of Directors of Residential Continuum, Inc. for group homes for autistic individuals in Montgomery Village.

Delegate Craig L. Rice (District 15):

- As a member of the Ways and Means and the Education subcommittee, Delegate Rice continues to champion educational issues. This year he laid the groundwork for a number of initiatives that will have a profound impact on schools in Maryland. These include a Cultural Competency Training Program for Officers in Public Schools, the prohibition of Bullying in Non-Public Schools, and the Safe Schools Act of 2010. These bills made our schools safer, protecting our children from bullying and gangs.

- Another particular interest of his is advocacy for the disabled. This year great strides were made trying to find a dedicated funding source to shorten Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) waiting list. His bill, HB 938, though defeated, outlined a workable strategy that mandated the Governor to include an annual Waiting List Equity Fund appropriation of at least \$29,000 multiplied by 90% of the individuals eligible for at least one DDA community-based service. Many felt this was the best way to truly address the shortfall in funding and should be revisited again next year. On a positive note, however, he was able to secure funding for the Ivymount School which serves 200 students annually, ages 4-21, from throughout the Washington Metropolitan area with serious developmental delays, learning disabilities, communication disorders, autism, and/or multiple disabilities.

- Further support to the disabled community was addressed by the passage of Delegate Rice's HB 1501 which requires a place of public accommodation to have closed-captioning activated on any television that is in use during regular hours in any public area, upon request. This bill is a simple matter of reasonable accommodation for those people that are deaf and hard of hearing.

Delegate Jeff Waldstreicher (District 18):

- A recognized leader on victims' rights, Delegate Waldstreicher authored and sponsored HB 534 to protect survivors of domestic violence. The legislation **doubles** the length of protective orders to 2 years. This legislation passed both the House of Delegates and the Senate unanimously and awaits signature by Governor O'Malley.

- A champion of inclusiveness and diversity, Delegate Waldstreicher authored and successfully passed legislation to recognize Hispanic Heritage Month. Under HB 34, which awaits the Governor's signature, Maryland will begin officially celebrating Hispanic Heritage this fall by conducting educational and cultural programs.

- A longtime advocate for Maryland's children, Delegate Waldstreicher authored HB 500 to update Maryland's child support guidelines. These guidelines were last updated in 1988, leaving thousands of children shortchanged and living in poverty. This bill, successfully passed by both chambers, brings parental obligations in line with the current cost of living.

- A member of the Judiciary Committee and its Criminal Justice Subcommittee, Delegate Waldstreicher was the author and lead sponsor of legislation to eliminate human trafficking in Maryland. HB 283 significantly increases penalties for this heinous crime. This legislation passed both chambers unanimously and will be signed by the Governor.

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