



Montgomery County *Commission for Women*

Montgomery County Women's History Archive

Senator Susan C. Lee



Senator Susan C. Lee, a respected civil rights attorney, was elected to the Maryland State Senate on November 4, 2014 after serving 12 years in the House of Delegates representing District 16. She is the first Asian American to be elected to the Maryland State Senate and first minority senator from the Montgomery County delegation to Annapolis. Susan is also the first Asian American woman elected to the Maryland General Assembly. Susan serves on the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. In the House of Delegates, she was a Deputy Majority Whip, House Judiciary Committee Member, Chair of the Family Law Subcommittee, Vice Chair of the Montgomery County House Delegation, President of the Women's Legislative Caucus (Women Legislators of Maryland) for two terms, Co-Chair of the Maryland Commission on Cyber Security, Innovation and Excellence, Co-Chair of the Task Force to Study Identity Theft, and Co-Chair of the Nanobiotechnology Task Force.

Susan has helped pass laws to advance excellence in education, a clean environment, quality health care access, the life sciences, cyber, IT and emerging technologies, public safety, mass transit, transportation, smart growth, and other measures. Serving two terms as President of the Women's Legislative Caucus, she led efforts to pass an aggressive agenda of laws to fight domestic violence, sexual assault, child and elder abuse, and human trafficking; economically empower women, children and families; reduce health care disparities; and restore funding for rape crisis centers statewide. Susan authored a new law to effectively deter and fight the surge in vicious and violent home invasions by perpetrators who have targeted the elderly, women, immigrants, and families. She also introduced and passed several pieces of important legislation to effectively fight and prosecute human trafficking, a form of 21st century human slavery and sexual exploitation, whose victims are from the ages of 9 and 20; and a law to allow limited English crime victims to have access to court interpreters.

Susan is recognized as the legislature's leader on cyber security and innovation, identity theft, online fraud, and consumer protection issues. As Co-Chair of the Maryland Commission on Cyber Security, Innovation and Excellence and Co-Chair of the Maryland Identity Theft Task Force, she authored and passed Maryland's first ever, landmark laws to protect Marylanders against cyber crimes and terrorism, identity theft, and online fraud that could paralyze the operations of the state's government, economy, utilities, and infrastructures. This included

Maryland's first ever laws to fight cyber attacks against state data bases and utilities; prosecute medical records identity theft and online identity theft; provide assistance to law enforcement and victims of identity theft; and enable consumers to freeze their credit reports. She also introduced and passed nation's first identity theft pre-texting law.

Susan authored and passed Maryland's first ever Telemedicine law to allow physicians to be reimbursed for vital health care services delivered via Telemedicine, which has a track record of saving lives, increasing health care access and early diagnosis, improving outcomes and reducing health care costs and disparities and a law to extend coverage to Medicaid patients, some of the state's most neediest and underserved. In addition, she authored and passed laws to require high schools and middle schools to have onsite life saving Automatic External Defibrillators, which can save the lives of sudden cardiac arrest when minutes matter.

Susan also helped pass the Civil Marriage Protection Act, Fairness for All Marylanders Act, and Maryland Dream Act, Firearm Safety Act, Death Penalty Repeal, and a law to increase the minimum wage. As Co-Chair of the Nanobiotechnology Task Force, she helped pass laws to advance the life sciences, IT, cyber, and emerging technologies which create life saving innovations, jobs and revenues that will enable Maryland to globally compete and sustain our future.

Recognized for going above and beyond, Susan is an Inductee of the Montgomery County Human Rights Hall of Fame and the recipient of the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women's Legislative Leadership Award; Maryland NOW's Leadership Award; *Daily Record's* Maryland Top 100 Women; Equality Maryland's Out for Justice Award; National Center for Children and Families' Spirit Award for Humanitarian Leadership; Maryland Health Information Management Systems Society –recognized for leadership on Healthcare Information Technology and Reform; Village of Friendship Heights Community Service Award; Progressive Maryland's Progressive Leader Award; Charles E. Smith Communities Chairman's Award for Commitment and Support of the Elderly Community; Mothers Against Drunk Driving Merit Award; KASCAMD Outstanding Senior Citizens Advocate Award and many other awards.