

SUSAN C. LEE
Legislative District 16
Montgomery County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on
Cybersecurity, Information Technology
and Biotechnology

President Emeritus
Women Legislators of the
Maryland General Assembly, Inc.



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 222
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3124 · 301-858-3124
800-492-7122 Ext. 3124
Susan.Lee@senate.state.md.us

April 12, 2016

Dear Friends:

With the end of a busy 2016 Maryland General Assembly session, I wanted to provide you with a brief overview of some of the important legislation that passed. Thank you for contacting me during the session and giving me the honor and privilege of serving and representing you in the Maryland State Senate.

Budget and Protecting our Priorities: The General Assembly worked diligently to pass a \$42 billion balanced budget that protects our investments in education, health care, public safety, and other longstanding priorities that will enable our economy to grow while reducing the structural deficit and maintaining our AAA bond rating and Rainy Day Fund. State funding to Montgomery County increased by \$38 million; there will be at least \$106 million for capital projects with \$43 million for public school construction.

Education: Maintaining our commitment to our public schools, we invested over \$6.3 billion in K-12 education and fully funded the Geographic Cost of Education Index. Making college affordable and accessible, we limited undergraduate tuition increases to not more than 2%, and increased aid by 5.4% to community colleges and \$8 million for private colleges and universities. We passed a law to allow students to refinance college loans at lower rates, enabling them to attend college and attract to our county knowledge based jobs.

Pay Equity: As Lead Sponsor, I spearheaded efforts to pass the **Equal Pay for Equal Work Law** that will prohibit wage differentials based on sex, gender, or other discriminatory policies; promote greater transparency by allowing employees to inquire or ask about wage information without fear of retaliation or being fired; disallow employers from asserting defenses that are based on sex or gender instead of merit, qualifications, experience, or other job related factors; ban "Mommy Tracking"; and have a workplace that promotes transparency, fairness, and merit.

Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) Fund: To fight the surge in online sexual predators targeting children and the large backlog of uninvestigated cases, as the Lead Sponsor, I led efforts to pass "**Alicia's Law**", which creates a \$2 million fund to enable law enforcement to increase staff, training, and technical and digital forensics capabilities vital to investigating and rescuing children lured and abducted by predators and to ensure their capture and prosecution.

Domestic Violence: As Lead Sponsor, I passed a bill to strengthen our **Stalking law** by including conduct that is not only likely to lead to injury or death, but also abusive, relentless, and terrifying behavior that causes foreseeable, intentional, emotional and psychological harm to a victim's health and well-being. I also was recently appointed as a **Member of the Governor's Family Violence Council**.

Protecting Victims' Ability to Testify in Court Proceedings: As Lead Sponsor, I passed a major law to allow convicted perjurers to testify as a witness in a court proceeding and to be impeached. This law prevents injustices, especially in cases of domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, or other violent crimes where the convicted perjurer is the only witness to a crime. Although convicted murderers, rapists, and other criminals are

allowed to testify, convicted perjurers - who at one time may have lied about a minor incident or on a form affidavit - are banned from ever testifying in a court. This law will prevent domestic abusers, sexual predators and other criminals from having impunity from prosecution for crimes against their victims.

Task Force to Study Recording Deeds for Victims of Domestic Violence: As Lead Sponsor, I passed a bill to create a task force having representatives from state agencies, a domestic violence advocacy group, and legal, banking, realty, and other industries to assist the Safe at Home Address Confidentiality Program in developing a process to protect the confidentiality of addresses of domestic violence and human trafficking victims.

Expansion of Extortion Statute: As Lead Sponsor, I passed a bill to protect **labor or human trafficking victims** from being exploited, particularly in situations of forced labor or sexual servitude by expanding the state extortion law to include the disclosure of an individual's undocumented immigration status.

Maryland Safe Harbor Workgroup for Youth Victims of Human Trafficking: As Lead Sponsor, I passed a bill to extend for one year the Workgroup, which has produced important legislative recommendations.

Restoration of Victim's Right to Restitution on Appeal: As Lead Sponsor, I passed a law to authorize a crime victim to file an application for leave to appeal to the Court of Special Appeals when the victim has been denied their right to restitution upon filing a certain motion requesting relief.

Banning Dogfighting Implements: As Lead Sponsor, I passed a law to ban the possession of dogfighting implements which is essential to prosecuting dogfighting, a cruel and heinous crime.

Drunk Driving: Named after Officer Noah Leotta who was killed by a drunk driver, I cosponsored **Noah's Law**, which requires ignition interlocks or driver's license suspensions for drunk drivers having blood alcohol level of .08 or more; and **Alex and Calvin's Law** that imposes of up to one year imprisonment for parents and other adults who provide alcohol or host a drinking party attended by those under 21 years who later drive impaired and seriously injure or kill themselves or others.

Justice Reinvestment Act and Public Safety and Policing: We passed laws to provide substantive criminal justice reform that favors drug treatment, education and job training over incarceration, eliminates mandatory minimums for certain nonviolent crimes, and provides other reforms to reduce prison populations and recidivism. Legislation also passed to ensure police accountability and address training, community policing, and other measures. I also passed a law to allow a Juvenile Services employee to appeal disciplinary matters and certification issues to the Office of Administrative Hearing (OAH) for resolution with efficient due process.

As lead Sponsor, I also passed a group of bills to update our current **Maryland Trust laws** and worked with my District 16 House colleagues to obtain renovation funds for the Friendship Heights Village and Jewish Community Center. Legislation also passed to bring **greater transparency to transportation funding** by creating an objective process to screen and rank transportation projects based on benefits, reduced congestion, economic development and other factors

As the **Chair of the Maryland Cybersecurity Council Subcommittee on Law, Policy & Legislation**, I will be working on proposed legislation to fight large scale cyber-attacks against our government, commercial, health care, and other entities as well as other timely cybersecurity issues.

Thank you for keeping me informed about issues important to you and your family.

Very truly yours,



Susan C. Lee