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DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Joint Committee on  
Cybersecurity, Information Technology,  
and Biotechnology

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**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

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Dear Friends:

With the end of a demanding 2017 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:** Working in a bipartisan manner, the General Assembly worked diligently to pass a \$43.5 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 from \$400 to \$38 million. The General Fund will have over a \$100 million balance, with over \$830 million contained in the Rainy Day Fund. The capital budget includes over \$4.5 billion for road repairs, library, hospital, and school construction and other projects to improve the quality of life while creating jobs.

**Standing up for Maryland:** Proactively responding to potentially harmful Federal actions, the General Assembly passed a measure to allow Maryland's Attorney General to sue the Federal government to protect the Chesapeake Bay, environment, affordable health care, and our constitutional rights. We also passed other measures to protect access to family planning services (Planned Parenthood) by having the state provide vital funding for those services if they are federally defunded, and to curb the privatization of our public schools.

**Education:** Maintaining our commitment to our public schools, we invested over \$6.4 billion in K-12 education and fully funded the Geographic Cost of Education Index. To make college affordable and accessible, undergraduate tuition will not be raised by more than 2% and Community College funding will be increased by \$2.5 million for FY18.

**Environment:** I cosponsored legislation to **Ban Fracking** to protect our citizens from an extraction process that may pose devastating harm to our environment and public health and safety. We also passed bills to protect oyster sanctuaries; restrict the non-therapeutic use of antibiotics for livestock, and codify the EmPOWER Program to reduce energy bills and fight climate change.

**Domestic Violence:** I was proud to spearhead and be the Senate lead sponsor of several laws to protect domestic violence victims. The legislature passed my bill to have a rape or sexual assault defendant tested for HIV within 72 hours of exposure, thereby enabling a victim the option of being treated with latest, lifesaving PEP that could reduce infection by over 80% if taken within 72 hours. We also passed my bill to **take guns away from the hands of domestic abusers** who received probation before judgment for 2<sup>nd</sup> degree assault in a domestic related crime. I was also the lead Senate sponsor of **Amber's Law**, which informs domestic violence victims of the ability to request the latest electronic stay away technology that will timely alert them and the police of an abuser's violation of a stay away area, thereby saving lives

when minutes manner. I also passed a law to increase the statute of limitations for **1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> degree Murder and Arson Solicitation** to 3 years.

**Human Trafficking:** Continuing my work to fight human trafficking and uplift victims, I led passage of several pieces of legislation to require police training in human trafficking that will enable them to better detect, protect, and assist victims; to require National Human Trafficking Hotline posts in adult entertainment establishments restrooms to help victims escape trafficking; and to continue the exemplary work of the Safe Harbor Youth Victims of Human Trafficking Workgroup.

**Fighting Elder Abuse:** With the surge in cases of serious fraud and abuse being perpetrated against senior citizens, I led passage of a bill to increase the time for elder abuse investigations from 30 to 60 days in order to ensure there is adequate time to investigate and enable the prosecution of some of the most egregious cases.

**Child Abuse and Neglect:** I was the Senate lead sponsor of a bill that passed to restore protections against harmful mental child abuse and neglect; and to extend coverage to certain persons of authority.

**Identity Theft and Cybersecurity:** I was the Senate lead sponsor of a law to allow one free charge for a freeze of a consumer's credit report, which is a critical proactive step in preventing identity theft. I also led passage of a bill to update the Maryland Personal Information Protection Act to protect and set forth standards and procedures commercial entities must take to effectively safeguard and notify consumers in cases of a breach of their sensitive personal information. The legislature also passed my bill to set forth uniform authentication, preservation and security processes for online official legal documents, as our state and country are fast moving toward electronic publication of our laws, regulations, and court decisions. As the **Chair of the Maryland Cybersecurity Council Subcommittee on Law, Policy & Legislation**, I will continue my work on laws to fight catastrophic cyberattacks, and make Maryland the Epicenter of cyber innovation and jobs.

**Advancing Technology and Jobs:** The legislature passed bills to increase the Research & Development Tax Credit by \$3 million; and to extend a tax credit for those seeking security clearance to 2022.

**Drug Price Gouging:** I cosponsored legislation to enable our Attorney General to take legal action against a company if the price of an off-patent or generic drug increases by at least 50% in one year.

**Transparency in Public Information Act Requests:** I was the Senate lead sponsor of a law to require a government agent to provide an explanation why redacting information would not address reasons for denial.

**Animal Welfare:** I was the Senate lead sponsor of a bill that passed to provide immunity to first responders rendering aid to pets in emergency situations (who otherwise could be subject to a misdemeanor charge).

**Earned Sick Leave:** I was proud to cosponsor the **Maryland Working Families Act**, which will allow over 700,000 Marylanders to earn sick leave and not have to choose between losing their jobs to take care of themselves or a family member or make others in the workplace sick. Employers with 15 or more employees would provide 5 days of earned sick leave per year.

*District 16 obtained bond funding for the Bender Jewish Community Center, the YMCA-BCC, the Interfaith Watershed Restoration and Outreach, and the Gracefully Growing Together Community Center.*

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

Very truly yours,



Susan C. Lee