



January 27, 2020

This week I was honored to be named the Chair of the Education Subcommittee for the Anne Arundel County Delegation! In this role, I will be holding several hearings about issues of importance to our local schools, including the new transportation report and its implications for school start times (read more [here](#)), and how to better address students' mental health needs, particularly students dealing with [Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACEs\)](#).

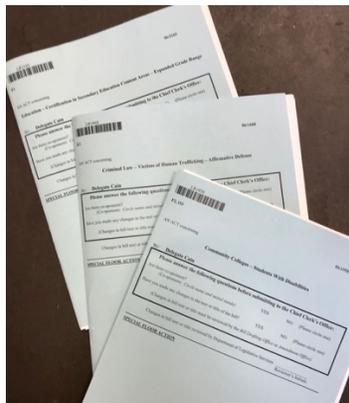
WEEK 3 OF SESSION



Every morning, the House of Delegates opens the Legislative Session with a moment of reflection or prayer. On Tuesday, I was invited to lead this opening, so I shared a beautiful prayer attributed to Mother Teresa that reminds us to do our best when facing challenging situations. You can read the full text at the end of this newsletter.



Every House Freshman is assigned a mentor legislator and I hit the jackpot with Delegate Sandy Rosenberg, the longest-serving House member in Maryland, as my mentor. His many accomplishments include creating programs that encourage students to enter public service, expanding voting rights, and extending MD civil rights laws to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. We share a passion for election law and are working together on a bill ([HB0465](#)) that requires campaigns to disclose the use of “bots” (automated online accounts where actions and posts are not the result of a person) and that imposes fines and/or jail time for violations.



Other bills I introduced this week include:

[HB0459](#) - **Helps survivors of human trafficking** by allowing them to use an “affirmative defense” that mitigates the legal consequences of otherwise unlawful actions that were committed under duress while they were being trafficked. Advocates say this is needed to help survivors of trafficking move on with their lives after they escape from being trafficked.

[HB0475](#) – **Supports students with disabilities** who attend community college students by creating a grant program to cover the cost of supplemental services, supports, and accommodations for these students.

[HB0515](#) – **Shines a light on the need for more mental health supports for students** by requiring every school board report the ratio of students to school counselors, psychologists, social workers, Speech Pathologists, Bilingual facilitators, and occupational therapists for each school, each year.

[HB0476](#) – **Improves the teacher certification process** to allow middle school teachers to teach 6th, 7th, or 8th grade classes by updating secondary teacher certification limits from grades 7-12 to grades 6-12 (in other words, finally aligning certification with the change from “junior high schools” to “middle schools”.)



[HB0001](#) – Hearings began this week for one of Speaker Adrienne Jones’ and President Bill Ferguson’s top priorities, the #BuiltToLearn Act. This legislation will invest an additional \$2.2 billion in school construction and renovation projects across the state. It prioritizes schools with the oldest buildings in the system with significant deficiencies, schools with high concentrations of students eligible for free or reduced priced meals, and schools with a high number of relocatable classrooms. The bill authorizes \$2.2 billion in 30-year Maryland Stadium Authority bonds, and paid for by \$125 million every year from casino funds. I can’t wait to vote for this bill!



This week Maryland's Teacher of the Year, Anne Arundel's own Teresa Beilstein, was honored at the Statehouse. A bipartisan group of legislators honored her with a citation, flowers, and cake! When I asked her what the legislature can do to most to help students she did not hesitate in replying that we need to do more to address students' mental health needs.



It was a pleasure for Delegates Darryl Barnes and me to meet with 40+ students from the Key School about the legislative process. They had great questions and ideas for us.



Like the rest of the Anne Arundel County Delegation, I am sad to say good-bye to long-time House Administrator Matt Stoller. After years of service in the House of Delegates, Matt is moving on to promote tourism in Annapolis. I am so grateful to Matt for all he has done for my team and me.

IN THE COMMUNITY



It was wonderful to see a tremendous outpouring of support to help people and animals displaced by the bushfires in Australia at a fundraiser hosted by Mayor Gavin Buckley and First Lady Julie Buckley at Fado on Saturday. My family and I were thrilled to be a part of this important effort!

You Are Cordially Invited to Attend
An Evening in Annapolis With
DISTRICT 30
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY



HOSTED BY
SENATOR SARAH ELFRETH
DELEGATE ALICE CAIN
DELEGATE SHANEKA HENSON
DELEGATE SETH HOWARD

Miller Senate Office Building, West 1 & 2
11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Monday, February 10, 2020 - 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

On February 10th, my district-mates and I look forward to welcoming you to your Statehouse, sharing our legislative agendas, and - most importantly - hearing from you! This is a free event, and food and refreshments will be served. Child care and speech services for the hearing impaired will be provided upon request. We hope to see you there! Please [RSVP HERE](#).

Mother Teresa's Prayer

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. **Forgive them anyway.**

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. **Be kind anyway.**

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. **Succeed anyway.**

If you are honest and sincere, people may deceive you. **Be honest and sincere anyway.**

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. **Create anyway.**

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. **Be happy anyway.**

The good you do today, will often be forgotten. **Do good anyway.**

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. **Give your best anyway.**

In the final analysis, it is between you and God. **It was never between you and them anyway.**

CONTACT ME!

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