



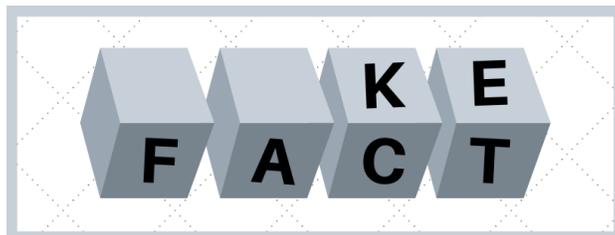
February 11, 2020

REPORT FROM THE STATEHOUSE: WEEK 5 OF SESSION

The biggest news of the week is that the House of Delegates passed the long gun registration bill ([HB004](#))! It closes a dangerous loophole that currently allows some purchases of rifles and shotguns to occur without a background check. I cast my vote in support of this bill and I hope the Senate will also commit to improving public safety by passing this common-sense gun control legislation.



Thank you to the 250 constituents who braved the cold and rain to join Senator Elfreth, Delegate Henson, Delegate Howard and me at District 30 Night. It was an amazing evening and we were thrilled to honor five incredible constituents with our new “Community Leadership Award.” The awardees were: Suzanne Conti Martin (Annapolis Immigration Justice Network); Pastor Samuel Colbert (United Methodist Church); Gayle Moreland (Dept. of Natural Resources); Darlene Washington (Franklin Church); and Matt Stoller (former House Administrator).

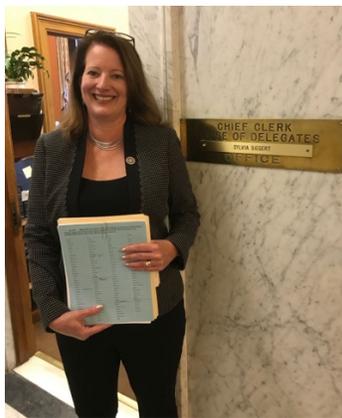


My bills continue to move forward through the legislative process. I testified before the Ways and Means Committee on Thursday about my bill to support

our democracy and fair elections by banning the use of deepfakes within 90 days of an election ([HB0198](#)). Deepfakes are digitally modified photos, videos and audios being used nefarious ways to sway voters.



Congratulations to my fellow Team 30A member, Delegate Shaneka Henson, for securing bipartisan support from the entire Anne Arundel County Delegation for her housing bill ([HB0544](#)) to eliminate a loophole in state law that allows the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis (HACA) to forego inspections and licensing of properties. Over the summer, Delegate Henson, Senator Elfreth and I visited many public housing buildings that had not recently been inspected. We were alarmed at the condition of some of the units. This bill is an important step in ensuring that all Annapolitans -- including the 541 children who reside in public housing -- live free of mold, rodents and other unsafe and unhealthy conditions.



The bill filing deadline was last Thursday and I got all of my bills submitted with a half hour to spare! Five of them are scheduled for hearings this week:

[HB0465](#) - **Disclosing the use of “Bots” in Social Media** – Today the House Ways and Means Committee held testimony for my bill that bans “Bots” (automated online accounts where actions or posts are not the result of a person) in social media before an election. It requires campaigns to disclose the use of Bots, empowers the State Board of Elections to seek to remove Bots, and imposes fines and/or jail time for violations. The League of Women Voters, Common Cause, and FEC Commissioner Ellen Weintraub submitted testimony in support of this bill!

[HB0475](#) - Supporting Students with Disabilities for Success at Community Colleges – Also today, the Appropriations Committee held a hearing on my bill to create a grant program (\$2.5 million) to cover the cost of supplemental services, supports, and accommodations for students with disabilities at community colleges. This bill continues my efforts to make higher education accessible to all. Dr. Dawn Lindsay, President of Anne Arundel Community College (AACC), and AACC student Joseph Wonzy are among those who testified in support of the bill.

[HB0459](#) - Helping Survivors of Human Sex Trafficking – The Judiciary Committee also held a hearing today for my bill to take another step helping survivors of human sex trafficking move on with their lives. It expands the options for these survivors to use an affirmative defense when prosecuted for crimes they were forced to commit while being trafficked. An affirmative defense mitigates the legal consequences of a defendant's otherwise unlawful conduct.

[HB0515](#) - Identifying Shortages in Mental Health Supports for Students – On Friday, the House Ways and Means Committee will hear testimony for my bill that requires every school board to report the ratio of students to school counselors, psychologists, social workers, speech pathologists, bilingual facilitators, and occupational therapists for each school each year. Identifying the areas of greatest need is the next step in addressing shortfalls in mental health supports for students across the state. This idea came from school counselors who serve in my Educator's Cabinet.

[HB0476](#) - Updating Secondary Teacher Certification Requirements – The very busy week will end with a hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee for my bill that updates requirements for a Secondary Teaching Certificate by allowing middle school teachers to teach 6th, 7th, or 8th grade classes. This certification change will simplify the hiring process for administrators. Thank you to the teachers and assistant principal who helped me develop this bill.



I was thrilled to receive a “Leadership in ACE and Resilience-Informed Policy Award” from the Maryland State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, alongside Senator Susan Lee and Delegate Michelle Guyton. I am pleased to

be a co-founder of the Maryland ACEs Caucus to champion legislation on behalf of children dealing with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).



It was a joy to present a “Community Leadership Award” to one of my local heroes, Suzanne Conti Martin. Suzanne has risked her own life to take trips to the border to help refugee families, including unaccompanied minors. She tells heartbreaking stories of helping toddlers whose parents have made the unfathomable choice of trying to save their lives by sending them - alone - across the border, never to see them again. She is doing everything in her power to help and even founded a new nonprofit, the Annapolis Immigration Justice Network, to help. You can read more about their outstanding efforts [here](#).



It was a treat when volunteers with the American Cancer Society dropped by my office to talk about the dangers of vaping and their efforts to improve the health and safety of Maryland’s youth. It is always a pleasure to support their important efforts.

CONTACT ME!

Please contact me any time at alice.cain@house.state.md.us or call my office at 410-841-3211.

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