



February 4, 2020

The biggest news this week is that the General Assembly overrode Governor Hogan's vetoes of five important bills that I supported last year.

WEEK 4 OF SESSION



On Thursday, both the House and the Senate successfully overrode the following five vetoes. I voted FOR all of these bills last year and to override these vetoes.

[HB0262](#) – **Maryland DREAM Act** - Immigrants who arrived in the US as young children without documentation and have lived here their entire lives, who are sometimes called Dreamers, should have the same opportunity to apply to college as other high school students. While Congress has not been able to get the votes necessary to enact the federal Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act to create a pathway to citizenship, Maryland is now giving Dreamers equal access to in-state tuition at four-year colleges.

[HB0720](#) – **Oyster Advisory Commission** - With oyster levels at historic lows, we need a plan that strikes a balance between economic growth and a healthier Chesapeake Bay. This law supports that goal by re-establishing the Oyster Advisory Commission, to be made up of 60% industry watermen and 40% conservation advocacy groups, and requiring implementation of the Fisheries Management plan to increase oyster production in Maryland.

[HB1343](#) – **Handgun Permit Review Board** – Like many other Marylanders, I trust the State Police to determine who should be allowed to carry a concealed handgun. Presently, law enforcement decisions are being overruled at a high rate by a board of political appointees who are allowing guns to be carried by

people the police say should not have a gun. This bill takes the politics out of the process by placing appeals of State Police decisions in the hands of an administrative law judge.

[HB0994](#) – **“Ban the Box”** – I believe in second chances, and this bill gives people who have been incarcerated a chance to re-enter the workforce so they can earn a living and lead productive lives. This bill enables job applicants to have an interview and make a good impression before being required to disclose a criminal record, instead of the other way around.

[HB0891](#) – **Union Grievance Procedure** – This bill is about fairness, specifically about making the grievance procedure process for state employees fairer. About 30,000 State employees have collective bargaining rights with the Governor. This bill will alleviate administrative issues that they deal with when filing a grievance.



This week I had my first bill hearing of the year, testifying before the Ways and Means Committee about my Restorative Practices bill ([HB0202](#)). It provides funding to school districts to break the school-to-prison pipeline by providing training for teachers and school administrators in restorative justice practices. It passed the House last year but, unfortunately, died in the Senate. Fourteen organizations -- including Advocates for Children and Youth, Education Trust, and the Maryland PTA -- submitted testimony in support of this bill. Next stop: the Senate!



It was with determination that we stood with Speaker Adrienne Jones at the press conference announcing [HB0004](#), a bill requiring background checks for

private sales of rifles and shotguns. This common-sense gun control measure passed the House last year but died in the Senate. We are continuing the fight. I also had the pleasure of meeting with Moms Demand Action volunteers from District 30 this week. Hundreds of moms (and dads and kids too) came out in full force to advocate for passage of this legislation. I am always inspired by their passion in fighting for safer communities.



Another highlight of the week was a press conference in support of the End-of-Life Option legislation ([HB0643](#)) that permits doctors in Maryland to prescribe life-ending medication to help terminally ill patients who wish to pass on in peace. This bill passed the House last year but failed in the Senate. I co-sponsored it last year, and again this year after hearing heart-breaking stories from constituents whose loved ones suffered needlessly at the end of their lives and want to help others avoid that suffering. The bill now moves to the House Government Operations and Judiciary Committees.



I turned out to support two important criminal justice reform bills that will meet a critical need in our correctional system. While inmates who are men have nine pre-release facilities that help them transition back to society by providing job training, employment opportunities, community resources and family support, there are zero pre-release facilities for women. Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield and Senator Mary Washington introduced two bills ([HB0608](#) and [HB0801](#)) that together will require the Commissioner of Corrections to operate a stand-alone pre-release facility for women in Maryland, helping these women and their children too.



Legislators gathered to celebrate the centennial anniversary of women's suffrage and to discuss the battle to pass the Nineteenth Amendment. It is fitting that during this historic year, we have more women than ever in the Maryland Statehouse, and it was a thrill to celebrate with our first-ever female Speaker of the House!



The work continues every day preparing for the introduction of the *Blueprint for Maryland's Future* legislation. This week I met with members of the Learning Leap Civic Association whose mission is to improve educational opportunities for vulnerable students. One of their leaders, Tony Spencer (to my left), is also a brilliant artist who painted the artwork behind us in this photo, called "The Warrior".



What would Session be without the wonderful pages that help on the Floor of the House of Delegates? I was excited to welcome our newest pages from Anne Arundel County, John from Broadneck High School and Shelby from

Chesapeake High School. Their commitment to learn about and be a part of the legislative process is a joy to watch.

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.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Please join me -- along with Senator Sarah Elfreth, Delegate Shaneka Henson and Delegate Seth Howard -- for District 30 Night in the Statehouse!

On February 10th, we will host an evening welcoming you to your Statehouse, giving us the chance to hear from you, and giving you the chance to hear about our legislative agendas. This is a free event, and food and refreshments will be served. Child care and services for the visually, hearing and speech impaired will be provided upon request. Hope to see you there! [RSVP HERE](#)

CONTACT ME!

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

www.AliceJCain.com



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