

# ***THE WEEKLY WHIP***

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2007

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE MAJORITY WHIP**

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the entire Whip team, welcome to the 423<sup>rd</sup> session of the Maryland General Assembly.

This session offers tremendous opportunities to build on our state's remarkable assets. As the Speaker noted on Opening Day, Maryland is the 3<sup>rd</sup> wealthiest state in the nation, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest median household income. We have a coveted AAA bond rating, and our unemployment rate is lower than the national average.

Our responsibility is to use these assets to improve the quality of life for all Marylanders.

Education was our top priority in the last term, with historic funding for K – 12 education and record funding for higher education. This session, we must ensure our students are learning in state-of-the-art classrooms. The Governor-elect pledged \$400 million for school construction and renovation, and the Speaker has asked us to help him reach that goal.

Our healthcare institutions are the envy of the world. Johns Hopkins University has been rated the number one medical center in the country every year for the last 16 years, and there is no finer Trauma Center than the University of Maryland Medical System's. Yet even with these assets, 750,000 Marylanders lack health coverage today. The Speaker set a goal of cutting that number in half this term.

In the last century, the Chesapeake Bay was both an environmental jewel and an economic engine for our region. Yet at the start of this century, the Bay's health is poor. Last term, we took steps to restoring the Bay, with the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund and the Agricultural Stewardship Act. We must stay focused on Bay restoration, and we will start this year with a bill to increase the Bay's native oyster population.

The excitement of Opening Day touched us all, from the most experienced veterans to the freshmen who are beginning their careers here. I look forward to working with you to build on our state's assets and to improve the quality of life for all Marylanders.

## **MEET YOUR WHIPS**

This year, each Committee will have two Deputy Whips. The Whips are here to be a resource for you. Whether you have a question about a bill, or you want help with press releases or your constituent service operation, please call on your Whip – we are here to help you make the most of this year's legislative session.

### **Appropriations Whips**

Delegate Bill Bronrott  
Delegate Keith Haynes

### **Economic Matters Whips**

Delegate Sally Jameson  
Delegate Michael Vaughn

### **Environmental Matters Whips**

Delegate Marvin Holmes  
Delegate Doyle Niemann

### **Health & Government Operations Whips**

Delegate Sue Kullen, Chief Deputy Whip  
Delegate Shirley Nathan-Pulliam

### **Judiciary Whips**

Delegate Susan Lee  
Delegate Victor Ramirez

### **Ways & Means Whips**

Delegate Anne Kaiser  
Delegate Justin Ross, Chief Deputy Whip

## **MEET YOUR NEW COLLEAGUES**

On the following pages, you will find a face book of the 30 newly elected members of the Democratic Caucus. They represent every corner of our state, from our largest counties to our most rural. Among their ranks you will find attorneys, business people, Capitol Hill staffers, local government officials, community activists, and even a former professional football player. They all have a background of community involvement, and they all worked tirelessly in their districts to earn the right to serve their community in Annapolis. We are proud to welcome them to the Maryland House of Delegates.