

DELEGATE SANDY Rosenberg!

GLADDEN • CARTER • OAKS • ROSENBERG TEAM

Dear Friend,

2014 Session Report

Our classrooms and our workplaces were my priorities this year in Annapolis.

I helped expand pre-kindergarten classes and ensure that when our schools are renovated, nearby communities can benefit as well. I worked to restore protections against sexual harassment and increase the minimum wage.

I hope that my work on your behalf has earned your support. **Early voting begins on June 12. Primary Election Day is June 24.** I hope to see you in the community between now and then.

Yours,

Sandy Rosenberg

Expanding pre-kindergarten and building neighborhood schools

The benefit to a 4-year old from a quality pre-kindergarten experience can last a lifetime.

Children who learn the names and sounds of letters before entering kindergarten are 20 times more likely to read simple words by the end of kindergarten. Kids who don't know the alphabet too often fail to catch up with their peers who do.

"For every dollar invested today [in pre-K], savings range from \$2.50 to as much as \$17 in the years ahead," according to the Institute for a Competitive Workforce, an affiliate of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Last year, Senator Bill Ferguson and I introduced legislation creating a competitive grant program to expand existing half-day pre-K to full-day programs and to enroll children in working class families who are not currently eligible because of their parents' income.

Our legislation did not pass, but it set the stage for a bill that did - the Prekindergarten Expansion Act of 2014, introduced by the O'Malley-Brown Administration. Public and private providers can bid for \$4.3 million in grants to stimulate innovation and expand access to high-quality early childhood education.

To provide half-day pre-K for all children in the state whose parents choose to enroll them would cost an estimated \$120 - 140 million. My efforts will now be directed at making the case for this investment in our children's well being.

The Expansion Act requires a study of providing universal access to pre-K at different income levels and the best practices to engage parents and guardians in early education programs and services. What kids learn in the classroom needs to be supported at home.

Last year, we enacted a \$1 billion program to modernize our public schools. Arlington and Pimlico Elementary/Middle Schools, Lyndhurst Elementary, and Forest Park Senior High are among the first schools to be renovated. Calvin Rodwell, Cross Country, Mary Rodman, and Medfield Heights Elementary Schools have also begun this process.

Parent and community input is essential in planning these buildings. Senator Lisa Gladden, Delegates Jill Carter, Nathaniel Oaks, and I have attended such meetings at each of the first-year schools.



In response to legislation that I initiated, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake will target \$5 million in capital improvements for the communities near renovated schools. For example, Calvin Rodwell Elementary is only one block from the Ambassador Theatre. The Mayor's initiative could fund renovation of the theatre where future Hollywood director Barry Levinson first went to the movies.

The school construction program will create hundreds of jobs. The City and State are committed to outreach and job training for City residents. I am working on similar pledges for construction of the Red Line and the renovation of public housing.

Fair treatment and a decent wage

You may remember Lilly Ledbetter. Her claim that she was denied equal pay was thrown out by the Supreme Court, which ruled, 5-4, that she had not gone to court soon enough after receiving the first pay check where she was paid less than her male counterparts.

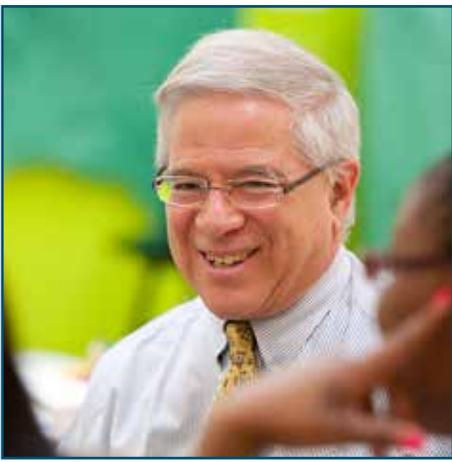
Justice Ginsburg dissented. The Congress and the Maryland General Assembly amended our fair employment laws in response. I sponsored the state law that gives an employee adequate time to file a claim.

The federal fair employment law holds an employer responsible for sexual harassment by a supervisor but not other employees. In a case decided last June, the same narrow majority that denied Lilly Ledbetter her day in court threw out the case brought by Maetta Vance, an employee in Ball State University's dining department for almost 20 years.

A supervisor is someone who has the authority to hire or fire employees, the Court found. Justice Ginsburg again dissented. A supervisor is also someone who can affect the employment of others and direct their work, she wrote.

President Reagan might have said, "There you go again." So I did.





Citizens for Samuel I. "Sandy Rosenberg
2218 Angelica Terrace
Baltimore MD 21209

By Authority, Citizens for Sandy Rosenberg, Herbert Brown, Treasurer

I introduced the Fair Employment Preservation Act of 2014. It would make Justice Ginsburg's dissent the law of Maryland. The companion bill passed the Senate but not the House.

The minimum wage sets a fair standard for working Marylanders. I supported increasing it to \$10.10 an hour. It will move people over the poverty line and stimulate our economy.

Preserving public housing and our neighborhoods

My first job after law school was with the Housing Authority of Baltimore City. That's one reason why I still take a special interest in public housing issues.

Nearly 4,000 senior citizens will be affected by the proposed sale of public housing high-rises. Responding to a request from Delegate Maggie McIntosh and me, the Housing Authority will provide a quarterly report on temporary displacement of tenants during rehabilitation, hiring of local construction workers, and protections and benefits offered current employees.

Since the housing market crashed five years ago, historically owner-occupied neighborhoods have been harmed by foreclosures, vacant properties, and homes with mortgages exceeding the current market value. My House Bill 1078 would have created a task force to identify resources and strategies in the private and public sectors to address these problems.

In response, Speaker Michael Busch asked the Housing Workgroup of the Sustainable Growth Commission to undertake this effort and to recommend legislation, if needed.

Start-up companies and students

An internship can be a crucial first step to a lifelong career. A non-paying position is out of the question, however, for the countless students with burdensome academic debt.

Technology start-up companies and aspiring engineers and programmers often need a matchmaker. Students, recent graduates, and veterans will apply for internships with these businesses under the Maryland Technology Internship Program.

I introduced this legislation after reading an op-ed by Freeman Hrabowski, President of the University of Maryland Baltimore County. UMBC will oversee the placement and orientation of businesses and 40 interns annually and monitor students' progress during and after the program. House Bill 1317 is modeled on a similar Massachusetts public-private partnership

The case for these internships was also made by Renny McPherson, co-founder of Red Owl Analytics. He writes, "Many... graduates would like to stick around [Baltimore], but have historically had to chase jobs in other cities. All we had to do was provide an exciting company and fulfilling work environment, and people were happy to stay in the city and region they care about." http://www.huffingtonpost.com/renny-mcpherson/choosing-baltimore-to-bui_b_5063771.html

We already support summer internships for students interested in public service. The need for this program – and the student interest in these positions, doesn't end when classes resume. That's why I introduced legislation to expand these Walter Sondheim Scholarships to the fall and winter semesters, but it did not pass.



"I have worked with Anthony Brown. He will make an outstanding Governor."

Targeting the tobacco industry

To overcome the tobacco industry's lobbying strength, the Governor needs to sponsor the bill or it must be the highest priority of a very broad coalition – or both. That's also true for gun control. That shouldn't be the case with two products that can kill people, but it is.

I learned that lesson again this session with my bill to ban the sale of "gateway products" for young smokers: unpackaged, or single-wrapped, cigarillos and other flavored tobacco products. House Bill 1158 died in committee.

Smoking, the leading cause of preventable death in the country, is now increasingly a habit of the poor and the working class. How should we target our smoking prevention efforts to reverse that trend in Maryland?

The Surgeon General found that 99% of adults who are daily smokers started smoking when they were 26 years old or younger. In response to my introduction of House Bill 1070, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will study the most effective efforts that focus on both adolescents and young adults, especially those who are poor or working class.

Protecting sources and the public interest

When journalists uncover information that the government doesn't want you to know about, they often rely on confidential sources. To protect this vital function of a free press, a reporter may not be compelled to disclose a source's name.

Our existing reporter's shield law, however, applies only to employees of the news media. Newsroom cutbacks and the Internet have significantly changed the status of journalists. Instead of full-time jobs, many are employed part-time or as free-lancers. They still do important work and deserve the same protection as full-time media staffers.

For example, the existence and scale of the National Security Agency's "PRISM" surveillance program was first disclosed by an independent contractor of the Washington Post, Bart Gellman. I first read about the sale of public housing units in Baltimore City at Baltimorebrew.com, in an article written by Melody Simmons, a freelancer for this online publication.

The passage of House Bill 385 will extend this important protection to a journalist who is an independent contractor of the news media, acting within the terms of a contract.

Slots revenue for our neighborhoods

\$2 million in slot-machine revenue has been allocated to neighborhoods within one mile of Pimlico Race Track. After numerous community meetings, consensus was reached on how to spend these funds. However, they remain unspent due to bureaucratic delays.

To prod the Baltimore City government to put this money to use, my 41st District colleagues and I successfully introduced legislation that mandates a schedule for the distribution and expenditure of these funds and requires the City to provide a quarterly report to the General Assembly.

delsandy@aol.com