

# U.S. SENATOR BEN CARDIN



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January 28, 2024

Dear Friends:

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending this afternoon's 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Legislative Briefing. This year's theme, "From Proposal to Passage: Collaborating for Justice and Equality," highlights the importance of cooperation as we work for progress in our communities. The work of the Montgomery County Commission for Women has continued to exemplify this principle.

Today's event provides us with a chance to reflect on how far the Commission for Women has come since its first legislative briefing over four decades ago. For years, you have provided mentorship, assistance, and professional development resources for women in our community. The Commission for Women has continued to empower so many women who have made significant impacts on our community.

Throughout my career as a legislator, I have been proud to fight for the issues that matter to women in Maryland and around the country, including equal pay for equal work, access to critical preventive health services, sponsorship of the Equal Rights Amendment, and affordable higher education. The Commission for Women has shared in this commitment with your advocacy, education, and financial services for the community. In addition to your legislative briefing, your organization serves women through education, service, referrals for assistance and advocacy. Thanks to you, women in Montgomery County are able to get help as well as help themselves.

I have no doubt you will continue these critical efforts to provide resources for sustained success and community empowerment. I commend you for your decades of service to Montgomery County and send my best wishes for an impactful and educational event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben Cardin".

Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senate



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

January 28, 2024



Dear Friends,

I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to everyone gathered for the Montgomery County Commission for Women's 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Legislative Briefing.

Established in 1972, the Commission has tirelessly worked towards the economic, political, and social advancement of women and girls. I am grateful for the Commission's efforts to better our community, from conducting inspiring and informative seminars to convening this robust legislative briefing each year.

As the longest-standing women's legislative event in the state of Maryland, the WLB provides the opportunity for current and emerging community leaders to come together to find solutions for the issues that impact women and girls in our region. This year's theme – "From Proposal to Passage: Collaborating for Justice and Equality" – encourages us to uplift women and girls so that they can learn how to make a difference through advocacy and legislative action.

You have my very best wishes for a successful Briefing, and my gratitude for your dedication to our community.

Sincerely,

Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3006

Montgomery County Commission for Women  
21 Maryland Ave, Unit 330  
Rockville, MD 20850

January 28, 2024

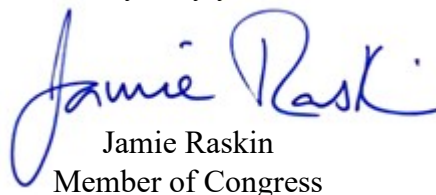
Dear Friends,

I am sending my friends at the Montgomery County Commission for Women and the women and girls' advocates of Maryland my warmest greetings as you gather for the 44th annual Women's Legislative Briefing. I hope that you enjoy a productive session as you prepare to help write public policy that uplifts women and girls in Maryland.

The Commission for Women's skilled advocacy on behalf of Montgomery County's women and girls has already contributed in meaningful ways to the well-being of our community. By addressing human trafficking, distributing STEM scholarships, empowering women and girls to take ownership of their finances and supporting women reentering society after incarceration, you have already shaped a better future for all women and all Marylanders.

As you know, you can count on me as a staunch supporter of your work. Thank you for your dedication to all the people of Maryland's beautiful Eighth District.

Very truly yours,

  
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



JOHN P. SARBANES  
3RD DISTRICT, MARYLAND  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

January 28, 2024

*Montgomery County Commission for Women  
2024 Women's Legislative Briefing*

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I extend warm greetings to all those gathered for the Montgomery County Commission for Women's 44<sup>th</sup> Women's Legislative Briefing.

Since 1972, the Montgomery County Commission for Women has been an important advocate for women's rights in the County and convener of similarly committed individuals and entities across our state. Through its dedicated efforts, the Commission successfully brings advocates, policymakers and other thought leaders together to identify issues impacting women and devise and implement policy solutions to them. Each year, the Commission's legislative briefing provides Marylanders an invaluable opportunity to discuss current and emerging women's issues and relevant policies at the federal, state and local levels. This year's briefing theme – "From Proposal to Passage: Collaborating for Justice and Equality" – highlights the critical importance of joining together to forge more inclusive policies in pursuit of a stronger democracy and a more equitable society.

I applaud the efforts of the Montgomery County Commission for Women. Please accept my best wishes for an informative and inspiring event.



Sincerely,

John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress





January 28, 2024

Dear Guests of the 2024 Women's Legislative Briefing,

Over the past few years, right-wing lawmakers across the country have been working to take away women's fundamental rights and freedoms. From abortion bans to attacks on transgender youth, Americans are being stripped of their basic rights just for being who they are. It's horrific and against everything that our nation should stand for. During this year's women's legislative briefing, we once again fight for progress – together.

In Congress, I'm proud to fight for legislation centered on fair wages and working conditions for women. I helped pass the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act into law to require employers to provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant women. I also cosponsored the Paycheck Fairness Act to address wage discrimination on the basis of sex. To this day, women typically earn 82 cents for every dollar earned by men, which is why I strongly support the wage gap transparency bill proposed in Maryland's General Assembly. We must combat discriminatory practices and policies on the local, state, and federal levels, and I'm confident that we'll get the job done.

In Maryland, I also know that there are several legislative priorities on the agenda intended to protect and support women, including a bill to create programming for women transitioning from prison to our communities and a bill to notify law enforcement officers when someone fails a background check when trying to purchase a firearm. I'm supportive of both of these measures and I've worked to ensure similar initiatives are achieved on the federal level. I helped pass into law the Safer Communities Act, which created a background check system for those with misdemeanor domestic violence convictions to keep guns out of their hands. We also have to protect abortion care across our country and support those seeking reproductive health care in our state. Reproductive care has allowed women to further their education and careers, lift themselves out of poverty, and pursue a better life. By taking away reproductive freedoms, we are sending the wrong message to Americans about how we value women and their futures. We won't stand for it.

Today's briefing is a powerful statement of our collective commitment to breaking down barriers for women. Your efforts in planning and executing this event amplify the voices that often go unheard and bring to light the critical issues that demand our attention and action. Together, with the commission's hard work, we are making strides towards a more equitable future. It's an honor to stand with you in this mission, and I remain committed to advocating for policies that protect and empower every woman in this nation.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Trone".

David Trone  
Member of Congress

GLENN IVEY  
4TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-2004

January 28, 2024

Dear Montgomery County Commission for Women,

I extend my warm greetings to each of you as you gather for the 2024 Women's Legislative Briefing. For forty-four years, the Montgomery County Commission has brought together advocates, policymakers, and emerging leaders to empower, engage, and mobilize Marylanders around issues that profoundly impact women and girls.

The Montgomery County Commission for Women's unwavering commitment to improving the conditions for women and girls is commendable. In an era marked by the prevalence of domestic violence and human trafficking, attacks on women's reproductive health, and the ongoing struggles for equal pay and paid leave, it brings me solace to know that there are advocates tirelessly working to create a safer and more just world.

The 2024 Women's Legislative Briefing will be informative and inspiring and convene thought leaders dedicated to shaping equitable policies and legislation. From the breakout sessions to the keynote addresses, the event will address critical issues impacting women and girls with input from various leaders and stakeholders. I am confident that each of you will play an integral role in shaping a conversation that drives meaningful change. As you engage with one another this weekend, I encourage you to stay rooted in purpose, embrace challenges, and pursue ambitious goals.

Rest assured that I am fighting alongside each of you to expand women's access to healthcare and equitable pay and create a more inclusive society. I am grateful for organizations like the Montgomery County Commission for Women. Your organization's advocacy is a testament to what is possible when individuals advocate and work diligently to address challenging issues.

I look forward to supporting the positive change that will undoubtedly result from the 2024 Women's Legislative Briefing and broader efforts of the Montgomery County Commission for Women.

With warm regards,



Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress