



2012 Women's Legislative Briefing

On Sunday January 29 the 32nd Women's Legislative Briefing was held at the Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville. The purpose of the event is to inform the residents of our state about legislative proposals before the Maryland General Assembly and the U.S. Congress that address issues of specific concern to women. The event was attended by almost 700 people from across the region.

Eighty women's and community organizations helped organize the program with the Commissions for Women of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Exhibitor displays of 30 of these organizations lined the hallways. In addition we were honored to have Kaiser Permanente as a Premier Sponsor and AARP as a Major Sponsor.

The opening session included greetings from Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker, Susan Lee, President of the Women's Legislators of Maryland, Marilyn Kawamura, President of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States and Dr. Estella M. Hyde representing AARP.

Catherine Leggett, Esq. Senior Vice President, Human Resources, ICMA- Retirement Corporation moderated a panel addressing 'Women's Issues in the U.S. Congress.' Panel members included Senator Benjamin Cardin, Congressman Christopher Van Hollen, Congresswoman Donna Edwards and Senator John Sarbanes.

The opening ceremonies were followed by eight seminars each featuring legislators and prominent advocates. Issues included: Effective Legislative Advocacy: Advocating for Older Women's Issues: Health Care/ Health Care Reform for Women: Victories for Women in the 2011 Maryland General Assembly: Women in the Public Realm: Women, Families and Poverty: Work and Women: and Safety, Justice and Human Rights.

The Briefing came to a close with a reception providing elected officials an opportunity to meet with the conferees at the Briefing.