



STATE OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
**Wes Moore**



January 31, 2026

Dear Friends:

I am honored to welcome you to the 46th Annual Women's Legislative Briefing.

The theme of the event, "Stronger Together: Leading with Vision, Voices, and Values," is especially fitting given this year's lineup of some of Maryland's most powerful women, including Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, Senator Angela Alsobrooks, and House Speaker Joseline Peña-Melnyk.

These incredible women remind us that while progress is not preordained, progress is possible because of those willing to do the work. The Montgomery County Commission for Women carries that legacy forward. Since 1972, this commission has served as a leader in the fight to advance equal rights and opportunity for women and girls, harnessing their economic and political power in Montgomery County and across the state.

Maryland is your partner in the work. It's why we've built the most diverse cabinet in State history, with women representing over 50 percent of appointments. We've lowered the cost of child care, to help remove the barriers keeping women out of jobs. And I was proud to sign legislation to protect and defend reproductive health care for the women of Maryland for generations to come.

Still, there is more to do, and the challenges are enormous. But I am confident that with the leadership of organizations like the Montgomery County Commission for Women, we will prevail. And together, we will leave no one behind.

Sincerely,

Wes Moore  
Governor

January 31, 2026

Montgomery County Commission for Women  
21 Maryland Avenue  
Suite 330  
Rockville, MD 20850-1703



Friends and Leaders of the Montgomery County Commission for Women,

On behalf of the 1,300 members of the Office of the Comptroller, I send you warm greetings and appreciation for your leadership and dedication!

Congratulations on holding your 46th Annual Women's Legislative Briefing! This is one of Montgomery County's most important gatherings that empowers women and girls to amplify their voices.

The Montgomery County Commission for Women contributes significantly to Maryland's success by driving equality forward. By equipping your members with the skills, resources, and opportunities they need to succeed, you motivate them to shape policies and foster inclusion that creates a safer, healthier community for everyone. Your theme, "Stronger Together: Leading with Vision, Voices, and Values," is truly fitting because it celebrates the power of unity and reminds us that when women lead boldly, lift diverse voices, and stay true to their values, they spark meaningful change that reaches far beyond their communities.

I look forward to continuing to partner with you to advance our shared goal of creating a state that is more equitable, more resilient, and more prosperous so all can reach their full potential. Your noble work affirms my belief that we all do better when we all do better.

I send my heartfelt gratitude to each of you, and I offer my sincere best wishes for many more years of making a positive impact and difference in Maryland. Stay safe, be well, and keep in touch. Congratulations and thank you for all you do!

My best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brooke".

Brooke E. Lierman



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515



January 31, 2026

Dear Chair Foster & members of the Montgomery County Commission for Women,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all as you gather here to mark this year's 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Legislative Briefing. Congratulations on another year of effective advocacy on behalf of our state's women.

Since the Montgomery County Commission for Women began hosting this annual briefing in 1980, it has grown from a small local gathering to a significant regional event, with more than 65 co-sponsoring organizations and over 750 attendees from across Maryland. As this event has expanded over the years, our state has continued to make progress in gender representation. This term, Maryland's Congressional Delegation includes more women representatives for the first time since 1995.

Despite the remarkable progress made, there is still much work to be done, which makes this year's theme of "Stronger Together: Leading with Vision, Voices, and Values" even more fitting. It recognizes the importance of collective leadership in elevating diverse voices and ensuring we live up to our values. The information you provide and the opportunity to meet with elected officials makes this event a truly invaluable forum.

Congratulations, again, on another year of championing gender equality and women's rights in the state of Maryland, and on the successful organization of this critically important gathering. I am proud to stand with you as you work to identify solutions to inequities and empower all women and girls to succeed. It is thanks to organizations like yours that Maryland has made, and will continue to make, so much progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kweisi Mfume".

Kweisi Mfume  
Member of Congress

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

January 31, 2026

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

Dear Friends,

I am sending my warmest greetings to my friends at the Montgomery County Commission for Women as you gather for the 46th annual Women's Legislative Briefing. I applaud the more than 700 exemplary leaders who are at our state's longest-standing legislative event for women and girls, and I am deeply grateful for your enduring commitment to improving our community. I am wishing you a productive session as you promote collective action, bridge perspectives and shape 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 continues to meaningfully shape our community. By preventing violence against women, advocating for reproductive health and rights, empowering women and girls to take ownership of their finances and supporting women reentering society after incarceration, you have already created a better future for all women and all Marylanders.

I remain, as ever, a steadfast and passionate 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



## UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 26th, 2025

To the Montgomery County Commission for Women:

While I am disappointed that I'm unable to join you in person for today's legislative briefing, I wanted to send my sincere appreciation to the Montgomery County Commission for Women for convening this critical and thought-provoking annual gathering. For 46 years, you have brought together advocates, policymakers, and emerging leaders to empower, engage, and mobilize Marylanders around issues affecting women and girls throughout the state. As a former member of the Women's Caucus at the State House and now a proud member of the Democratic Women's Caucus, I am committed to the continued fight for women's rights here in Congress and alongside our state and local partners.

Today, your work is more important than ever. When I was sworn into Congress, I learned that while approximately 12,000 individuals have had the privilege to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives in our nation's 248-year history, **only 396 have been women**. I'm proud to follow in the footsteps of some incredible women, including my mentor, Senator Barbara Mikulski, who previously represented Maryland's Third District.

I will leave you with the words of another remarkable woman, former Governor of Vermont and Ambassador to Switzerland, Madeleine Kunin, who said, "If you're passionate and capable, it's your obligation as a woman to run for office." Her words have stuck with me ever since I first heard them as a young college student, and I hope they encourage you to continue to lean in, participate, and make your voice heard.

If my team and I can ever be of assistance to you or your work, please do not hesitate to reach out at [elfreth.house.gov](http://elfreth.house.gov) or (410) 832-8890.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Elfreth".

Sarah Elfreth  
Member of Congress



## FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater  
County Executive

January 31, 2026

Montgomery County Commission for Women  
21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Montgomery County Commission for Women,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to each of you as you gather to attend the 2026 Women's Legislative Briefing. The Montgomery County Commission has played a longstanding role in bringing key partners and stakeholders together to work towards advocacy and legislation that impact women and girls in our communities in a meaningful way.

Throughout my career in public service, I have had the great pleasure of being involved with this Commission, including participating in a panel with then Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks at the 2024 Women's Legislative Briefing. I was honored to take part in a panel to discuss my role as County Executive, and the work our counties are doing to advocate for and empower women and girls in our communities. The Women's Legislative Briefing brings together strong voices that uplift advocacy and action. I am confident that this year's legislative briefing will feature impactful speakers and panels that continue the mission of empowering and informing our strong advocates.

The 2026 Women's Legislative Briefing will center around the Commission's 2026 core theme of women and girls being stronger together, and fostering leadership with vision, voices, and values. This strong voice is important now more than ever, and as we strive to turn our vision into action, it's crucial that we come together in our advocacy. I commend the Montgomery County Commission on its ongoing work at the local, state, and federal levels and I am committed to working with the Commission to pursue the initiatives that will be most impactful, especially as we continue to face uncertainty from the federal government.

I look forward to championing the advocacy and values that are bound to be exemplified in the 2026 Women's Legislative Briefing. I believe that we truly are stronger together, and when we advocate for our values, we have a clear, strong voice that cannot be ignored.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jessica Fitzwater".

Jessica Fitzwater  
County Executive

JOHNNY OLSZEWSKI, JR.

2ND DISTRICT, MARYLAND

TOWSON DISTRICT OFFICE  
110 WEST ROAD, SUITE 420  
TOWSON, MD 21204



WASHINGTON DC OFFICE

1339 LONGWORTH HOB

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

PHONE (202) 225-3061

[www.olszewski.house.gov](http://www.olszewski.house.gov)

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



I am pleased to extend my warmest welcome to the Montgomery County Commission for Women's 46th Annual Women's Legislative Briefing.

This engaging and substantive event has brought local leaders together for nearly five decades to improve the civic life of Montgomery County and beyond. This year's theme of **Stronger Together: Leading with Vision, Voices, and Values** highlights the importance of finding shared purpose in improving our communities, our state and our country.

It is these values of collaboration and inclusivity that have guided my service as one of Maryland's representatives in Congress and previously as Baltimore County Executive. In Baltimore County, I appointed a historically diverse women-led cabinet to help create meaningful reforms that made our government more accessible than ever to our residents. We established Baltimore County's first campaign public financing system to expand opportunities for women and candidates of color to seek public office, testified in support of our state constitutional amendment protecting reproductive freedom, and made data driven decisions in investing wraparound services into the communities that needed it the most.

In Congress, I have built on that record by championing efforts to expand voting rights, participation, and accessibility. I believe we must advance federal campaign public financing reform to reduce the influence of money in our politics and civic life. I am also working across the aisle to advance legislation to ban stock trading by Members of Congress and restore integrity to public service. In the years to come, I will continue to pursue enduring reforms—guided by Maryland leaders like you—that bring our government closer to the people it serves.

This is more than a briefing - it is a platform for progress, and a powerful reminder of the ongoing journey toward equity and inclusion. I applaud the organizers, volunteers, and community members who make this event possible year after year and ensure that its spirit of unity endures for generations to come.

Your advocacy matters and, in me, you have an ally.

All the best,



Johnny Olszewski  
Member of Congress



January 31, 2026

Sheena Foster  
Chair  
Montgomery County Commission for Women  
21 Maryland Avenue Unit 330  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Chairwoman Foster,

It is with great enthusiasm that I once again welcome and extend my gratitude to the Montgomery County Commission for Women on the occasion of your 46th Annual Women's Legislative Briefing. As Maryland's longest-standing legislative event dedicated to women and girls, I applaud your consistent efforts to promote women's political and economic empowerment. It is heartening to see your organization use collective power to unite over 700 members and influence policy at every level of government.

The Montgomery County Commission for Women serves as the nationwide standard for women's advocacy. Please know you have my support in your mission to advance equity and opportunities for women and girls. On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Maryland, I thank you for advocating for the women in our communities.

I am deeply honored to be among those who support the Montgomery County Commission for Women's 46th Annual Women's Legislative Briefing.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Ivey".

Rep. Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress



**Chris Van Hollen**  
**U.S. Senator**

January 31, 2026



Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to send my personal greetings to the attendees of the Montgomery County Commission for Women's 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Legislative Briefing. This occasion marks decades of cooperation across industries to identify and address issues affecting women throughout our state.

Since its inception in 1972, the Commission has remained relentless in its commitment to the economic, political and social advancement of women and girls throughout Montgomery County and across Maryland. Your dedication to serving and informing the public and empowering women to fully engage in the legislative process is an inspiration to countless individuals. I am deeply appreciative of all that you do.

This year's theme, "Stronger Together: Leading with Vision, Voices, and Values", embodies the essence of the Commission's mission and the purpose of this event. It encourages us to remain steadfast in our commitment to creating impactful and lasting change by uniting diverse perspectives through meaningful dialogue even in the face of unprecedented challenges and an ever-evolving landscape.

You have my very best wishes for a successful and meaningful event, and my gratitude for your continued advocacy.

Sincerely,

Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator