

Dana's News from Annapolis

Join District 11 for a Virtual Town Hall

Presented by:

**Senator Shelly Hettleman, Delegate Dana Stein,
Delegate Jon Cardin, and Delegate Cheryl Pasteur**

Thursday, March 6, 2025, from 7:00 – 8:30 PM!



With the legislative session half over, we want to take this opportunity to connect, discuss key issues, and answer questions you may have. Your input is invaluable, and we hope you can attend our Virtual Town Hall focused on the latest developments in session and issues that matter to you.

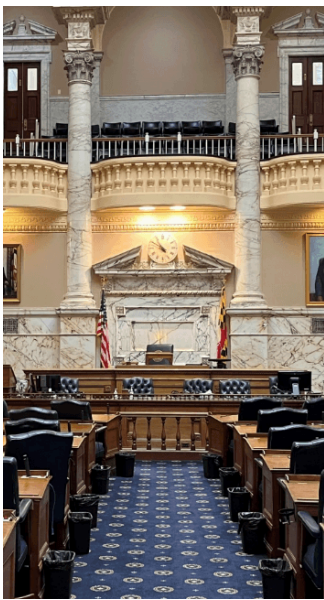
The town hall will include an overview of key legislation, followed by a Q&A where we'll address your questions and concerns.

Dear Friends,

This past week in Annapolis, my staff and I had the pleasure of meeting with a variety of advocates and community members, each passionate about the issues that matter most to them. We spoke with representatives from the **Maryland Library Association** and the **Baltimore County Public Libraries**, who shared their legislative priorities on supporting public funding for libraries and all the services they provide. Families and advocates for individuals with developmental disabilities expressed deep concerns over proposed budget cuts, emphasizing how essential programs like **Self-Directed Services** and **Low Intensity Support Services** are helping families provide individualized care. We also heard from **CCBC students** advocating to preserve programs that support student success like Maryland College Promise Scholarships and access to State scholarship grants for Community College students. We also met with **Arts community leaders** highlighting the importance of arts education and enrichment for people of all ages, from preschoolers to seniors.

Meeting with constituents is one of the most meaningful aspects of each session. Your insights and personal stories help shape my understanding of key issues and inform my decision-making on proposed legislation. We appreciate everyone who took the time to share their perspectives, and we look forward to continuing these important conversations in the weeks ahead. **Thank you for your advocacy!**

IN THIS ISSUE



- Virtual Town Hall - Thursday March 6th, 2025, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Dana's Legislation
 - HB 938 Continuing Care Providers - Governing Bodies - Membership
 - HB 1152 Pet Policy Transparency Act
- Policy Update
 - Impact of the ACA in Maryland
 - The State of the Chesapeake Bay
- Constituent Meetings
- Resources
 - America's Field Trip
- FAFSA Information
- Legislative Scholarship

DISTRICT 11 VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

District 11 Virtual Town Hall - Thursday, March 6, 2025, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Join us as we review key legislation, followed by a Q&A where we address your questions and concerns.

Please complete this [online registration form](#) to submit your questions in advance. While we'll do our best to answer as many as possible during the event, we'll follow up via email if we run out of time.

We will send out zoom details prior to the event via email. Thank you.

DISTRICT 11 VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

**Thursday, March 6, 2025
7:00 – 8:30 PM**

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DANA'S LEGISLATION

HB 938

**Continuing Care Providers -
Governing Bodies - Membership**



[HB 938 - Continuing Care Providers - Governing Bodies - Membership](#)

This bill deals with the governing bodies of continuing care providers, or CCRCs. A CCRC is a type of retirement community for older adults where residents can receive a continuum of care—from independent living to assisted living, to skilled nursing care.

This bill says that if the governing body has just one subscriber, then an alternate subscriber shall be appointed to the governing board.

This is important because residents of a CCRC may not always be able to attend meetings of the governing body. Having an alternate will ensure that subscribers can have a voting presence. It will also provide another resident voice on the governing body.

[HB 1152 - Real Property - Residential Rental Property - Pet Policy Disclosure \(Pet Policy Transparency Act\)](#)

The **Pet Policy Transparency Act** would require all landlords to clearly disclose their pet policies on websites, digital ads, rental search listings, and rental application forms. The policy must detail restrictions, fees, limits on number of pets, vaccination requirements and any additional rules imposed by the landlord. This bill will ensure all renters have upfront information about a building's pet policy. It will also help pet owners make informed decisions before signing lease agreements, thus avoiding unexpected costs or disputes. By standardizing pet policy disclosures, the bill promotes a fairer and more consistent rental process across all properties. If passed, the bill would take effect on **October 1, 2025**.



POLICY UPDATE

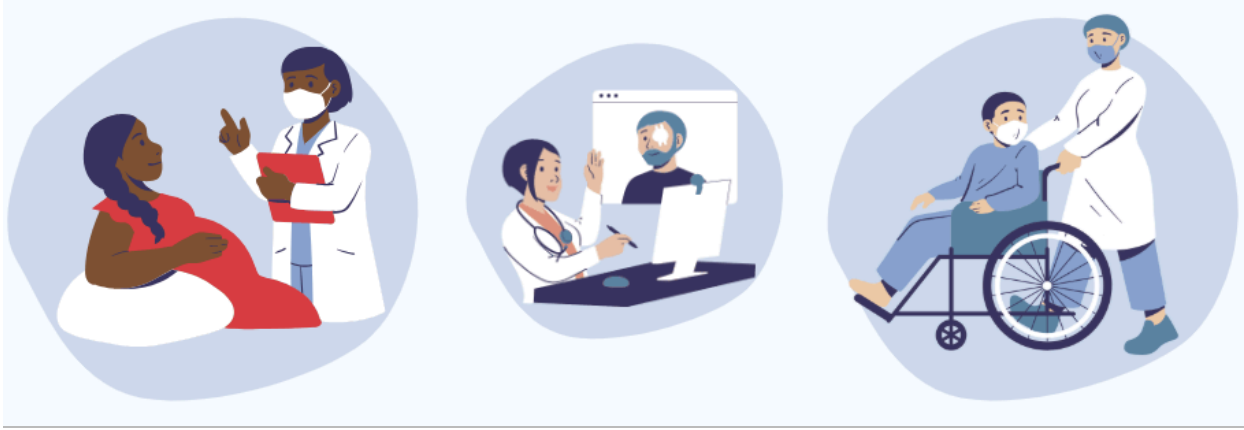
THE IMPACT OF THE ACA IN MARYLAND

The message from the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) and the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE) during their recent briefing was clear: the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the efforts of the MD Health Benefit Exchange are improving health outcomes for Marylanders in remarkable ways.

Key improvements include:

- **Reduced premiums:** Maryland's premiums are the 5th lowest in the nation, with the lowest Bronze and Gold plans, and the 3rd lowest Silver plans.
- **Gains in historically underinsured communities:** Black enrollment has increased by 23%, and Hispanic enrollment by 25%.
- **Health improvements for older populations:** Marylanders aging into Medicare now have significantly lower rates of chronic diseases and hospitalizations.
- **Diabetes care:** The amputation rate for diabetes patients has dropped from 56% to 23%.
- **Increased screenings and care:** There's been an increase in colon cancer screenings, vaccinations, contraception use, and chronic disease screenings. Survival rates for Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma have increased by 34%.
- **Economic benefit:** The ACA has become a key economic driver for small business owners who can now afford health coverage for their employees.
- **Record enrollment among young adults:** The surge in enrollment among young adults helps maintain a healthy pool of insured individuals, driving down overall costs.

- **All-time high enrollment:** The Maryland Health Benefit Exchange has reached record levels of enrollment.



The State of the Chesapeake Bay

During a recent briefing, the Environment and Transportation Committee received an update on the health of the Chesapeake Bay, which despite a C+ rating, is now at its best in over 20 years but much work remains.

Since the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, significant progress has been made, including record-low dead zones (areas of little to no oxygen where aquatic life cannot survive) for three consecutive years, thriving underwater grasses, large-scale oyster restoration, and expanded land conservation efforts.

However, challenges remain—13 of the 31 restoration goals for 2025 are off track. Key priorities moving forward include upgrading wastewater treatment plants, strengthening stormwater regulations, and reducing nutrient pollution in targeted areas.

Read More [here](#)

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS IN ANNAPOLIS



Dana with representatives from the Maryland Library Association



CCBC Student Advocates



Julie with representatives from the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance; the Lyric; Irvine Nature Center, the Baltimore County Commission on Arts and Sciences.



Dana with team members of the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) at Kennedy Krieger



Dana and Stacy Rogers of The University of Baltimore College of Public Affairs Schaefer Center for Public Policy



Julie with Baltimore County Families advocating for Disability Services



Maura Dunnigan and Matt Horn of Senator Hettleman and Del Cardin's offices with Kennedy Krieger team members and disability advocates



Chaltu and members of The Arc Baltimore



Julie and Maura with District 11 family advocates for Disability services

RESOURCES

[America's Field Trip](#) is a nationwide student contest sponsored by **America250**, the official nonpartisan entity charged by Congress with planning the nation's Semiquincentennial in 2026, also known as the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. America's Field Trip invites students in grades 3-12 to be part of this historic milestone by sharing their perspectives on what America means to them — with the chance to earn a once-in-a-lifetime field trip experience at an iconic American landmark or cultural site, including the Smithsonian's National Zoo, National Archives Museum, Kennedy Space Center, and Yellowstone National Park — just to name a few.



Visit America250.org/FieldTrip/Rules for Official Rules.

- **Submission Deadline:** April 16, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. ET
- **Eligibility:** Any student in grades 3-12 who is a legal resident of any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or the U.S. territories is eligible to enter. First- and second-prize awardees from the America's Field Trip pilot contest, which ended on May 17, 2024, are not eligible to enter or win.
- **Requirements:** Students at each grade level may create artwork, including physical artwork, that is submitted through a high-res photo, digital drawing, or an essay.
- **Judging Criteria:** A panel of current and former educators will evaluate submissions based on **Clarity of Idea** (25%), **Student Voice** (50%), and **Presentation** (25%).
- **Prizes:** 25 first-place awardees from each grade level category and their designated chaperone will receive travel and lodging accommodations for a three-day, two-night trip to a select historical or cultural site. 25 second-place awardees from each grade level category will each receive a \$500 cash award. Award recipients will be announced in May 2025, and field trips will take place in July and August 2025.

How to Enter the America's Field Trip Contest

Students at each grade level will respond to the prompt, "What does America mean to you?" with artwork or an essay. Students must develop submissions individually.

Students must have a teacher, parent, or legal guardian submit their entry through the application portal at America250.org/FieldTrip/Application. A teacher may only submit an entry on behalf of a student with written permission from that student's parent or legal guardian.

For more information about America's Field Trip, including official contest rules, 2025 field trip locations, judging criteria, submission thought starters, classroom activities, and Spanish-language resources, please visit America250.org/FieldTrip or scan the QR code.



Visit America250.org/FieldTrip or scan the QR code to learn more.



The 2025-26 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form is now available.

If you missed the U.S. Department of Education's webinar series on FAFSA resources and navigating StudentAid.gov, don't worry! You can watch recordings on YouTube [@FSAOutreach](https://www.youtube.com/@FSAOutreach).

Students, parents, and college/career professionals are encouraged to tune in for information on creating a StudentAid.gov account, paying for college and career school, and avoiding financial aid scams.

LEGISLATIVE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The applications for my H. Allan Lipsitz Memorial Legislative Scholarship are now available. Please visit my [website](#) for more details.

As a reminder, students who received a scholarship last year need to re-apply for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Students can get additional information about state financial aid—including how to navigate the FAFSA process—by going to the [Maryland Higher Education Commission](#) website. To be considered for state financial aid, you must file FAFSA June 30, 2025. To be notified of scholarship eligibility for Maryland Scholarships, you are encouraged to file by March 1, 2025.

Don't forget to apply for the other District 11B scholarships!

- [Senator Shelly Hettleman](#)
- [Delegate Jon Cardin](#)

All completed scholarship applications must be submitted by March 31, 2025.



I'm proud to represent District 11B in the Maryland General Assembly House of Delegates.

If I can ever be of assistance, please contact me at dana.stein@house.state.md.us or call my Annapolis Office at 410-841-3527

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Stein". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dana Stein
Delegate, *Speaker Pro Tem*, District 11B, Maryland General Assembly



M A R Y L A N D

HOUSE OF DELEGATES



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