

## Delegate Dalya Attar's Mid-Session Newsletter from Annapolis!



*Delegate Attar, husband Asaf Mehrzadi, children Ilana & Aaron with Speaker Busch at swearing in ceremony on January 9<sup>th</sup>.*

Dear Friends,

This week marks the middle of my first 90-day legislative session in the Maryland General Assembly's 439<sup>th</sup> session. I want to begin by taking a moment to thank you for giving me this opportunity to represent you in Annapolis. I'd also like to take this opportunity to send an update from Annapolis!

This 439<sup>th</sup> session began on January 9, 2019, with my colleagues and I being sworn in, inside of the House of Delegates' chambers which dates back to 1772.

Since January 9<sup>th</sup>, there have been many different issues considered in the General Assembly and it has been an extremely busy session, with over 1300 bills filed thus far. I have spent many long days in hearings and meetings on a wide range of topics that affect my constituents and residents of the entire State of Maryland.

As a member of the Environment and Transportation committee, I have heard countless bills and been briefed by experts on the health of the Chesapeake Bay, as well as highway construction, and the work of the Department of Transportation. As a member of the Housing and Real Property subcommittee, I have spent countless hours reviewing, debating and voting on housing related bills.



*Delegate Attar with Speaker Busch  
at swearing in ceremony on January 9<sup>th</sup>.*

## Addressing the opioid epidemic:

### **Maryland Crisis Connect**

**Call 211, Press 1**

With Help Comes Hope

Maryland Crisis Connect is available 24 hours/7 days a week to provide support, guidance and assistance on how to access Substance Use Disorder services, in addition to the current mental health crisis services provided by this hotline.

Callers will also be given information about naloxone, recovery support and family services as available/appropriate in the individual's local area.

As many of you know, the opioid crisis is an epidemic that I have been concerned about and focused on for many years. It is an epidemic that touches the lives of many of us, and this epidemic does not discriminate. I, and likely many of you, have personally seen the effects this epidemic has on families.

I have been working on combatting this crisis as a felony narcotics prosecutor in Baltimore City, as I work to prosecute drug dealers and reduce the amount of drugs that are on the street. Unfortunately, the opioid crisis has taken an extreme and dangerous turn in our State with fentanyl coming into the picture. Fentanyl is extremely potent, and a lot more fatal than heroin. Fentanyl is being sold to children in our community without them even realizing it, as fentanyl is being used to cut other drugs that children in our community are purchasing. It has even been alleged by law enforcement that fentanyl is being mixed with marijuana that is being sold to children in our community.

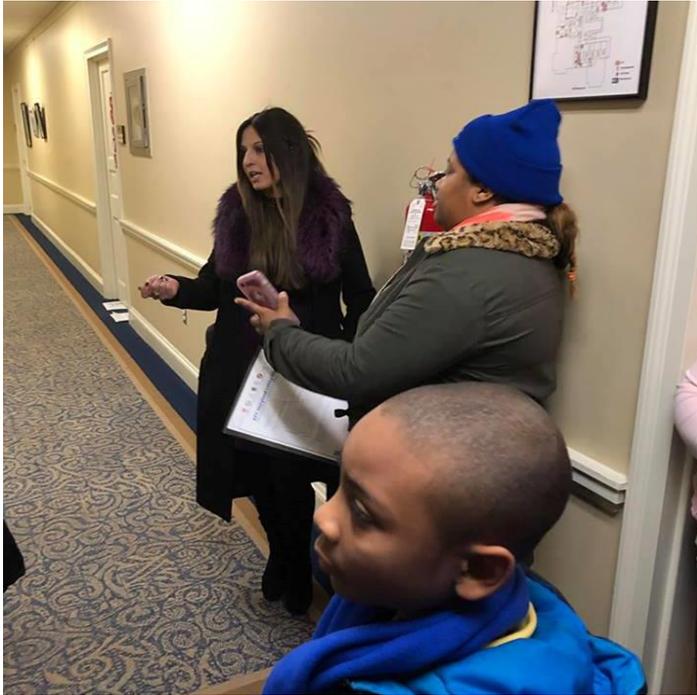
I am therefore extremely honored to have been selected by the Speaker of the House of Delegates to

be a member of the House Opioid Workgroup. This opioid epidemic is a non-partisan issue, and as I stated, it does not discriminate. This workgroup therefore consists of a group of bipartisan legislators working to battle this crisis that affects the lives of so many of us.

I look forward to finding ways to battle this crisis that affects so many and to saving our children from this epidemic.

## Advocacy Groups and Constituents:

I have met many, many advocacy groups from across the state. A special thank you to everyone who has made their way to Annapolis this session. It has been so nice to see familiar faces from the campaign and meet new constituents as well.



*Delegate Attar speaking with members of AFT-Maryland about the importance of funding our schools on January 28<sup>th</sup>.*

*We had a packed house on Baltimore City Day in Annapolis on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to those who came to Annapolis to meet with your Baltimore City Legislators.*





*Delegate Attar with Baltimore City State's Attorney Mosby at Baltimore City Day in Annapolis on February 5<sup>th</sup>.*



*Delegate Attar speaking with students from Forest Park High School in Annapolis on February 6<sup>th</sup>*



*Delegate Attar with members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland on February 12<sup>th</sup> discussing their priorities this session.*

*Partnerships with all levels of government is extremely important. We would like to extend a special thank you to our Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen for briefing the Baltimore City Delegation on February 8<sup>th</sup>, and for their advocacy for Baltimore City on the Federal level.*



## Some bills introduced this session:

### Baltimore City Local Bills:

#### House Bill 161: The Water Taxpayer Protection Act of 2019



Our water bills in Baltimore City are out of control and cause extreme hardship for many constituents throughout our district. I believe that allowing our homes and places of worship to be taken away from us because of an inability to pay such outrageous water bills is unacceptable.

I therefore co-sponsored HB 161, which ensures our homes and places of worship are not being sold by the City to enforce a lien for unpaid water bills.

I am looking forward to a positive

outcome, which will lead us in the right direction of solving the current water bill crisis many families in our City are facing.

#### House Bill 2: Task Force to Improve Baltimore City Homeless Transitions From Low-Barrier Shelters to Permanent Housing



I can barely stand outside in the extreme cold weather we are experiencing this winter. I can't even begin to imagine what it is like for those who do not have a warm home to go into.

I therefore co-sponsored and voted in favor of HB 2, which establishes a task force to improve Baltimore City homeless transitions from shelters to permanent housing.

## House Bill 516 – Audits of the Baltimore Police Department; House Bill 528 – Baltimore City – Police Districts – Redistricting



Police reform in Baltimore City does not happen overnight. One step is hiring a Police Commissioner who is suitable for the position.

It is my hope that passing these two crucial pieces of legislation will be the next step. I have therefore co-sponsored House Bills 516 and 528. The first requires an evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of the financial management practices every six years, and the second tasks the Police Commissioner with submitting a redistricting and reallocation of police funds and resources plan to the Mayor and City Council every ten years.

I promised to help ensure sufficient funding for strong community policing to keep our neighborhoods safe, and I continue to find ways to do so.

## Statewide Bills:

### House Bill 481 - Criminal Law - Sale of a Minor – Felony



Did you know if a person sells a narcotic illegally in Maryland, that person faces a felony charge, while if a person sells a minor, someone's child, in Maryland, that person faces a mere misdemeanor? Human trafficking is more rampant than most of us realize, and we must work together to put an end to this horrific crime. I therefore co-sponsored House Bill 481, which reclassifies the sale of a minor as a felony.

I look forward to continuing the fight against human trafficking, and as always, protecting our children.

### House Bill 181: Electronic Harassment and Bullying (Grace's Law 2.0)



As parents, we all do our best to monitor and protect our children when they go online, but the internet's reach is evolving at such a rapid pace that it is just hard to keep up. I therefore co-sponsored House Bill 181, which is a bill named in honor of Grace McComas, a 15-year-old from Howard County, who committed suicide in April 2012, after repeated and vicious harassment online. This bill prohibits several forms of electronic harassment including

prohibiting a person from maliciously engaging in electronic communication under certain circumstances with the intent to induce a minor to commit suicide.

The internet is a wonderful resource for education, fun and community; I am working to ensure it remains a place free from intimidating, tormenting and malicious behavior.

## House Bill 240 – Hate Crimes – Threats and Penalties



**IT'S STILL HAPPENING.  
IT'S STILL WRONG.**

Have you or someone you know been affected by a hate crime? More and more people are becoming victims of hate crimes, and we must put an end to this.

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, in the middle of Black History Month, a hearing on this important legislation that affects minorities was held. House Bill 240 will change the existing Hate Crimes legislation to include the attempt or the threat of committing a hate crime. I am extremely proud to be a co-sponsor of this bill and look forward to it passing successfully.

We must support our friends and neighbors and reduce violence within Baltimore City and across our State.

## House Bill 813 – Drunk Driving – Administrative Per Se Offenses – Ignition Interlock System Program



Did you know every 48 minutes a person dies as a result of a drunk driver?

House Bill 813 is a bill that I co-sponsored, which strengthens the Ignition Interlock system requirements (a breathalyzer installed in the vehicle) for those who have operated a vehicle under the influence of alcohol.

According to a 2016 study published by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), ignition interlock devices have prevented nearly two million drunk drivers from starting their vehicles.

MADD has become familiar faces on campus the last few weeks, and I look forward to their testimony at the

hearing February 27<sup>th</sup> before the Judiciary Committee.

(Statistics from MADD.org)

## House Bill 1197 - Task Force on Adults With Autism Spectrum Disorder



1 in 59 children falls on the autism spectrum and boys are four times as likely to be diagnosed. An estimated 500,000 individuals with autism will become adults this decade. Current services end with the public school system and pediatric healthcare, but autistic adults need career services, higher education or vocational training and adult healthcare.

I am therefore proud to be a co-sponsor of House Bill 1197, which would assemble a taskforce for adults with autism spectrum disorder. This taskforce would bring together experts to help our neighbors remain healthy, strong, contributing members of the community.

(Statistics from [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org).)

## HB 1190 – Maryland Stadium Authority’s Pimlico Race Course Study Workgroup



In 1984, the Baltimore Colts left for Indianapolis in the middle of the night. Many believe we never fully recovered from this loss.

In 2019, the Preakness is trying to leave Pimlico. But this time we have fair warning and won't let it happen without a fight.

Once a year, the Preakness Stakes takes place in Park Heights and is an annual reminder to the rest of the country that so much more than crime happens here.

The revitalization of Park Heights is my priority; I will not leave a boarded up, dilapidated structure and a vacant lot in our backyard without a fight. I will not let revenue run out of Maryland and into Washington DC without a fight.

I therefore co-sponsored House Bill 1190: Maryland Stadium Authority’s Pimlico Race Course Study Workgroup, a step in the right direction for our city.

We must work together to ensure that Baltimore retains its illustrious history, its jewel – a third of the Triple Crown, at the Pimlico racetrack.

### Delegate Attar’s Scholarships:

Attention Maryland college students, graduate students and private career students of the 41<sup>st</sup> Legislative District: Delegate Dalya Attar’s Scholarship application for the 2019-2020 school year is now available!

Please email [dalya.attar@house.state.md.us](mailto:dalya.attar@house.state.md.us) for more details and the application.

Students, please be aware of the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to complete your FAFSA, a requirement, and the April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline to apply for this scholarship.

To learn more, and see if you qualify, check out the Maryland Higher Education commission website: [https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog\\_delegate.aspx](https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog_delegate.aspx)

### Keep in Touch:

If you have not already, please “like” [Delegate Dalya Attar](#) on Facebook and follow [Dalya Attar](#) on Twitter. You will find daily updates about the groups I am meeting with, more information about the bills I am working on, and important information about District 41. Life during session moves fast, and my social media is a great place to see what the General Assembly is up to on a daily basis.

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to represent the 41<sup>st</sup> District in the Maryland General Assembly. If I can ever be of assistance, please call my office at 410-841-3268 or email me at [Dalya.Attar@house.state.md.us](mailto:Dalya.Attar@house.state.md.us).

Sincerely,

  
Delegate Dalya Attar