



2021 Legislative Package

Public Requests for Legislation/Position Statements

As of October 8, 2020

The Arc of Frederick County, Inc.

Submitted by: Shauna Mulcahy, Director, Community Engagement

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The Arc of Frederick County requests a position statement to support increasing accessible transportation and expanding services to eliminate barriers for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Board of Education of Frederick County

Submitted by: Karen Yoho, Member & Legislative Liaison

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The Board of Education of Frederick County requests support for legislation that would enact “hold harmless” provisions effective for the FY22 budgets for 1) State Aid to Education funding and 2) Public School Construction funding granted to school systems through the Capital Grant Program for Local School Systems with Significant Enrollment Growth or Relocatable Classrooms (EGRC). FY22 funding for both of these programs will rely on student enrollment on September 30, 2020, which has been substantially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commission for Women

Submitted by: Maura Page, President

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The Commission for Women requests position statements in support of legislation to establish a commission to review election law, practice and procedures to ensure that the state permits and encourages the broadest possible use of the franchise.

The Commission also requests support for previously introduced bills that have failed to move or pass:

- 1) A bill which failed to during the abbreviated 2020 General Assembly Session: Criminal Law-Sexual Crimes-Repeal Spousal Defense (HB590/SB230), would have repealed the law allowing marriage as a defense to sex crimes.
- 2) A bill introduced in 2019, and again in 2020: Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment to establish a family and medical leave insurance fund to provide partial wage replacement for employees who take leave to care for a new child, a family member with a serious health condition, their own serious health condition, or a family members’ military deployment.

Containment Laboratory Community Advisory Committee

Submitted by: Dr. Matthew Sharkey, Chair

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The Containment Laboratory Community Advisory Committee requests a position statement in support of legislation to require gene synthesis companies as well as people ordering synthetic DNA to comply with the voluntary guidance issued in 2010 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Frederick Community College

Submitted by: Elizabeth Burmaster, Chair, President

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The Frederick Community College requests a position statement in support of full funding of the Cade formula for community college and the restoration of the \$500K cut to FCC funding in the Facilities Renewal Grant made in FY21 and that the FY22 grant be used to fund their eligibility for the FY21 grant.

Frederick County Association of Realtors, Inc.

Submitted by: Amanda Addington, President

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The Frederick County Association of realtors, Inc. requests a position statement to support any legislation that would provide the authority necessary to exempt or provide a reduction in recordation tax for first-time home buyers.

Frederick County Teachers Association

Submitted by: Melissa Dirks, President

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The Frederick County Teachers Association requests position statements to support to 1) override the Governor's veto of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future 2020 and companion legislation; 2) address student count day issues due to the pandemic; and 3) construction funding for aging schools.

Insurance Committee

Submitted by: Lauren Vandergrift, Director, Risk Management, Frederick County Government and Staff Liaison, Frederick County Insurance Committee

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The Frederick County Insurance Committee requests a position statement to oppose a bill introduced in the previous legislative sessions, or legislation similar in content and scope, as well as opposition to legislation that would broadly require employers to accept COVID-19 and related illnesses as workers' compensation claims.

Opposition to HB 767, introduced in 2020, which was an attempt to have fees for legal services added to workers' compensation claims that only involved medical treatment with no lost time. For the most part, these claims are resolved without attorney involvement.

Justice Jobs, Frederick County

Submitted by: Robert Clegg, Executive Director

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Justice Jobs, Frederick County requests a position statement to support funding for communications devices for low income residents, especially during the pandemic when many programs, educational and job opportunities are accessed electronically.

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Frederick County

Submitted by: Jessica Douglass, Legislative Lead

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Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America requests position statements to support the override of the Governor's veto of HB4/SB208 Public Safety – rifles and Shotguns – Sales, Rentals, and Transfers which would close the long gun background check loop hole, and to support legislation that would prohibit the purchase and sale of “ghost” guns (or untraceable firearms) and the critical parts to manufacture them, introduced in the 2020 session as BH910/SB958 Criminal Law – Untraceable Firearms.

Roads Board

Submitted by: Robert Shen, Department Head, Department of Engineering and Construction Management and Staff Liaison, Frederick County Roads Board

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The Roads Board requests a position statement in support of three issues: 1) restoration of Highway User Revenue distributions to local governments to levels that existed prior to 2008; 2) creation of a State program to aid local jurisdictions in the completion of ADA self-evaluations and transition plans; and 3) creation of a State fund to aid local jurisdictions carrying out repairs and replacements identified in their Transition Plans.

Senior Services Advisory Board

Submitted by: Kathy Schey, Director, Frederick County Senior Services Division and Staff Liaison, Senior Services Advisory Board

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The Senior Services Advisory Board requests a position statement to support legislation to 1) close the digital divide to offer low-cost and/or no-cost access to internet options that facilitate older adult social engagement and student learning, 2) provide a caregiver tax credit that would incentivize family members to care for their aging parents, enabling them to age in place; and 3) eliminate service disruption for clients receiving who, upon reaching Medicare status lose services that help them stay at home.

Sustainability Commission

Submitted by: Shannon Moore, Manager, Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources (OSER) and Dawn Ashbacher, OSER and Staff Liaison to the Sustainability Commission

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The Sustainability Commission requests support for three pieces of legislation introduced during the truncated session of 2020 should the same or similar bills be considered:

HB 561/SB 315 Community Choice Aggregation – Pilot Project to allow Montgomery County, introduced last session to initiate a pilot program that would allow Montgomery County to act as a community choice aggregator to negotiate the purchase of electric generation services from an electricity provider or supply electricity from its own solar power generating facility to sell to residential customers. Similar legislation this session might enable Frederick County to benefit from Montgomery County's experience with the pilot project by allowing the County to determine the viability in following suit.

HB209 – Plastics Bag Reduction Act which was passed in the House during the 2020 legislative session and would allow Maryland to join eight other states in banning the use of plastic bags at grocery stores and other retailers.

HB 395 Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund – Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative – Use of Proceeds for Maryland Healthy Soils Program to specify that funds in a certain renewable and clean energy programs account within the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment fund be used for the Maryland Health Soils Program. This legislation was sponsored by Delegate Carol Krimm (Frederick, District 3A) and Delegate Dana Stein (Baltimore, District 11), supported by the Farm Bureau, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and passed in the House unanimously.

Technology Council of Frederick County

Submitted by: Tom Dixon, CIO, Interagency Information Technologies Division

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The Technology Council requests a position statement that supports State funding for rural broadband initiatives and for increased funding for the Governor's Rural Broadband Office's matching grant programs to counties.

United Way of Frederick County

Submitted by: Ken Oldham, President and CEO

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The United Way of Frederick County suggests six recommendations to better enable Asset Limited Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) households to meet the challenges facing them during the COVID-19 pandemic. 1) Ensure equitable access to vaccines and testing; 2) Development of workforce and senior housing; 3) Policies that provide for access to affordable, high quality childcare; 4) Increase the access to broadband; 5) Increased and expanded access to safe, dependable and affordable transportation options; and 6) Robust State funding for the Volunteer income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, to provide no-cost tax preparation assistance.

Veterans Advisory Council

Submitted by: Linda Bergofsky, Administrative Specialist III, Citizens Services Division and Coordinator, Veterans Advisory Council

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The Veterans Advisory Council requests support for the passage of State legislation to exempt an increased amount of military retirement income among military retirees/spouses living in Maryland.