

ANNE R. KAISER  
Legislative District 14  
Montgomery County

Health and Government  
Operations Committee

House Chair  
Joint Committee on Cybersecurity,  
Information Technology and  
Biotechnology



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 425  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
301-858-3036 · 410-841-3036  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3036  
Fax 301-858-3060 · 410-841-3060  
Anne.Kaiser@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

April 2025

Dear Friends and Neighbors --

This is the most unnerving and precarious a time as I can remember.

Many of us in our community -- including me -- are deeply concerned and apprehensive about the direction of our country and the recent erratic actions of leaders in the executive branch of our federal government. I share your deep concern about the implications of starting unnecessary and risky trade wars with allies and enemies. I am unsure of what tariffs will get us, except higher prices at grocery stores, gas pumps, and car dealerships.

Not to mention the radical, ill advised, and messy layoffs at essentially every federal government agency, from the National Weather Service to the Department of Education.

This is likely of little comfort, but Maryland has established a website with resources for federal government employees who have been unjustly terminated. Please visit:

<https://response.maryland.gov/federalpublicservants> for resources that may be able to help you, your friends, or former colleagues.

I wish I had a magic wand to make the world around us feel more predictable and more stable. I wish I could shift the focus of our community conversations to issues that are important to every member of our community -- regardless of political party-- like education and public safety.

But rest assured I am doing what you elected me to do: represent the core values of our beloved District 14 communities that include: Silver Spring; Calverton; Colesville; Cloverly; Fairland; Burtonsville; Spencerville; Olney; Brookeville; Ashton; Sandy Spring; Brinklow; Laytonsville; Sunshine; Goshen; Clarksburg; and Damascus.

Thank you for continuing to trust my experience and proven effectiveness in public service. It is an honor to continue to represent your values in Annapolis -- something I have proudly done since you first elected me to the Maryland House of Delegates in 2002.

I serve our district along with Senator Craig Zucker, Delegate Pam Queen, and Delegate Bernice Mireku-North. Our whole team believes in compromise, level-headedness, and civility while we work through some of our state's most stubborn and complicated problems.

## State Budget: Our Values and Priorities

It likely won't come as a surprise to you that this was a very tough budget year. Just like you and I must live within our means at home, the state must also live within its means and be responsible stewards of taxpayer money. I appreciate that our state's constitution requires that the legislature pass a balanced budget. The first step in doing so required us to make \$1.9 billion in strategic cuts throughout state government.

## Tax Increases

As my dad used to say (borrowed from former Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes): Taxes are the price we pay to live in a civilized society. Just as our expenses have increased in our respective households, the state's expenses have likewise increased. Based on changes to our tax code, 94% of Marylanders will pay the same or less in state income taxes next year.

We're asking the wealthiest among us to pay their fair share. We are modernizing our tax code to reflect today's economy, including IT and cloud-based services -- similar to what Texas and DC have already done. I am proud to have supported these revenue strategies that aimed to provide tax fairness for working families.

## The Bottom Line

We preserved strong investments in our priority areas such as better schools, enhanced public safety, stronger healthcare, and improved transportation. Our budget highlights are as follows:

- ✓ **Education:** Upholds the revolutionary Blueprint for Maryland's Future -- which puts our state on a path to dramatically enhance educational opportunities for all students, no matter their zip code. We maintained critical funding for community schools, English language learners, and educational opportunities for students with disabilities.
- ✓ **Public Safety:** Boosts public safety funding: \$121.8 million for police aid, which is \$46 million above statutory requirements and full funding for \$60 million in victim services.
- ✓ **Healthcare:** Preserves essential health care for 1.5 million Marylanders by providing \$15.6 billion for Medicaid.
- ✓ **Transportation:** Invests in safer roads and bridges, expands commuter bus service, and improved the efficiency and accessibility of public transit, so we can all get to work and school safely and on time.

## Bringing Home the Bacon: State Funding for Our Local Projects

Your district 14 team worked diligently to support local programs. The funding for the following projects supports our families, our neighborhoods, and our communities:

- ✓ **Community Project Construction (\$6.39 million):** American Legion Post 171 (385k); Damascus Main Street (50k); Friends House Retirement Community (100k); Harmony 360 (25k); Muslim Community Center Kitchen (30k); OASIS (228k); Olney Community Hub (5.2m); Olney Mill House (172k); Olney Rotary Club (50k); and Salem United Methodist Church (150k).

- ✓ **Public Safety (\$200 thousand):** Laytonsville District Volunteer Fire Station (100k) and Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department (100k).
- ✓ **Transportation (\$2.22 million):** Bowie Mill Bike Trail (2.1m) and Route 108 Crosswalks (120k).
- ✓ **Libraries, Museums, and Community Spaces (\$2.65 million):** Calverton Galway Local Park (275k); Clarksburg Library (20k); Damascus Heritage Society Museum (100k); Freedman's State Historical Park (2m); Friends House ArtSpaces (50k); Olney Farmers and Artist Market (5k); and Sandy Spring Museum Library Archives (200k).
- ✓ **Schools and Camps (\$2.636 million):** Blake H.S. roof (1m); Damascus H.S. athletic facility (200k); Girl Scout Camp at Brighton Woods (400k); Greenwood E.S. security/privacy updates (200k); Sherwood H.S. softball field (686k); and Westover E.S. playground (150k).

### **My Legislative Ideas and Endeavors: Turning Values into Action**

My goal remains the same each legislative session: introduce and pass common sense bills that will improve government operations and/or increase the overall quality of life for Marylanders. I passed the following seven bills that I expect Governor Moore to sign into law:

- ✓ **House Bill 426: Securing Our Elections with Risk-Limiting Audits**  
After several years of pushing for this initiative, I was finally successful in passing a bill that will enhance how we audit election results. Nothing matters more to our democracy than free and fair elections. I'm not sure how our democracy can survive if citizens don't have faith that our elections are free, and that the results are accurately calculated.
- ✓ **House Bill 455: Creating Braille Flags for Maryland Veteran Cemeteries**  
The tactile braille American flag, embossed with dots to indicate color, is an accessible way for visually impaired individuals to experience the American Flag. By placing the flags in five veteran cemeteries in Maryland, this bill aims to honor the blind and visually impaired Marylanders who have served our country.
- ✓ **House Bill 738: Modernizing the State's Computer Infrastructure**  
The state spends a lot of money on IT. ***I mean a lot.*** A recent audit of computer systems used by state agencies identified more than \$1 billion in wasted money over the last eight years. *Whaat?* This bill will make IT spending more transparent and ensure that state agencies better manage the purchase of major computer systems and spend taxpayer dollars more efficiently.
- ✓ **House Bill 757: \$1 million for Volunteer Firefighter Fund**  
Did you know? Firefighters have 14% higher risk of dying from cancer than the general U.S. population. This funding will help firefighters access screenings and preventative care before they get critically ill.

✓ **House Bill 953: Tax Sales are Plainly Unfair and Unjust**

Did you know that the state has the authority to seize a home and essentially force a foreclosure sale if the homeowner accidentally misses a payment or gets behind on paying their property taxes? Unsurprisingly, many people who face the prospect of a tax sale are poor, elderly, African American, and/or disabled and are less able to afford to pay their property taxes without assistance.

Several years ago, I helped establish the Maryland Homeowner Protection Program to help reduce the instances of tax sales and allow people to remain in their home when possible. This year, I introduced legislation to allow for volunteer contributions to the Homeowner Protection Program and to enhance the marketing of the program.

✓ **House Bill 1292: Requiring Health Insurance Companies to Share Updated Provider Info.**

A constituent came to me with this radical idea: get health insurance carriers to provide more accurate and up-to-date information about available providers. You would think we wouldn't need a law mandating such a thing...but...well...we do.

✓ **House Bill 1474: Teletherapy for Out-of-state College Students at Maryland Schools**

It seemed absurd to me that out-of-state students who are enrolled in Maryland colleges and universities could not use telehealth services for mental health services due to arcane and outdated rules. Telehealth across state lines worked during the pandemic and this bill expands it for students. In the future, I hope to extend this to all people visiting Maryland.

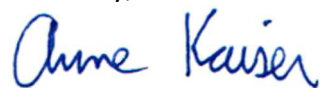
**Thank You, Thank You**

Our democracy is strengthened when people take an active role in our government. Thank you for your continued calls, e-mails, letters, Tweets, and Facebook posts -- keep them coming! As always, feel free to send me suggestions!

Consider inviting me to your community event or backyard BBQ or inviting the District 14 team to talk with your community association. I wish you a happy and healthy spring and summer!

If I can ever be of service to you, I would be delighted to hear from you. Please call me on my personal cell: 301-379-2663.

Sincerely,



Anne R. Kaiser

P.S.: Please consider friending me on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/anne.kaiser14](https://www.facebook.com/anne.kaiser14)) and/or following me on X (@DelegateKaiser). No matter where you are on the political spectrum -- I know we can work together to improve our beloved state of Maryland!