

# CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

*Longtime Champion for Women and Families*



From his first days in the Maryland legislature to his current time in Congress, Chris Van Hollen has been a champion on issues vital for women and families.

Chris has been at the forefront of legislative efforts to guarantee economic empowerment, close the wage gap, protect women's health, secure equal rights under the Constitution, and prevent violence against women and girls.

Rosalyn Levy Jonas, Former Board Chair of NARAL Pro-Choice America and winner of NARAL's 2015 *Champion for Choice* award, has called Chris Van Hollen a "hero" for women's activists and "the leader Maryland needs and women deserve."

## Economic Empowerment and Equal Rights

- As the top Democrat on the Budget Committee since 2011, Chris Van Hollen has introduced budgets that represent our democratic values and support women and families.
- His economic priorities include ensuring **equal pay for equal work** by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act, **increasing the minimum wage**, supporting **women entrepreneurs** and small business, and enacting policies for **earned sick leave**.
- Chris believes that putting gender equality in the U.S. Constitution is long overdue and is a leading supporter of efforts to pass the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).
- As a key member of the Democratic House leadership team, Chris Van Hollen helped pass the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which became the first bill signed into law by President Obama in 2009.
- Chris has earned **100 percent ratings** from Planned Parenthood, NARAL Pro Choice America, and the American Association of University Women every year since his election to Congress.

**As our next U.S. Senator, Chris Van Hollen will always stand up for equal rights for women and girls.**

## Women's Health

- As Assistant to Speaker Pelosi and a key ally of President Obama, Chris was instrumental in passing the Affordable Care Act, and worked to **eliminate discrimination against women in the health care system** and **expand access to preventive services for women, including cancer screening and birth control**.
- Since the health care law's enactment, Chris has emphasized the importance of increased oversight by the Department of Health and Human Services to **ensure that women are receiving their due benefits**.
- The top Democrat on Budget Committee, Chris has repeatedly led the fight against Republican Tea Party efforts to repeal the ACA and he has included **increased funding for prevention and treatment** of women's health issues, as well as **access to family planning** in the Democratic budgets he has authored.
- As a state legislator, Chris worked successfully to **increase funding for breast cancer screenings** and treatment in Maryland, and has continued those efforts in Congress. He has repeatedly been honored by the National Breast Cancer Coalition for his work this area.

- **Chris trusts women to make informed choices in private about when and whether to have children.**
- From his first term in the Maryland legislature, and throughout his years of public service, Chris has helped pass legislation to ensure that **access to reproductive health care** for women would be protected. He has been honored by Planned Parenthood of Maryland with their coveted Betty Tyler Award for his work in this area.
- As a leader on the Budget Committee, Chris successfully fought Republican efforts to strip access to abortion coverage from the Affordable Care Act and to cut funding to Planned Parenthood.
- Chris supports comprehensive sex education to ensure that young people have the information they need to make responsible choices.

## On women's health, Chris Van Hollen will bring a record of leadership and getting results to the U.S. Senate

### Safety and Domestic Violence

- Chris has always advocated for domestic violence laws - from his time in the Maryland legislature where he fought for **strong protective orders**, to his strong support for efforts in Congress **reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act** so that it provides support for **immigrants and LGBT individuals**.
- VAWA's reauthorization also included provisions from the Campus SAVE Act, a bill Chris cosponsored to provide greater protection for college students.
- Chris is also a leading supporter of the STOP Act to provide independent oversight of sexual assault cases in the military.
- Chris has been a leader in the fight against gun violence, which affects thousands of Maryland women and families every year.
- He is the author of common sense legislation to help states implement handgun purchaser licensing laws, measures that studies show have **sharply cut gun violence** and suicide rates in states where enacted.
- This is not a new issue for Chris - as a state senator in 2000, he met a Maryland mom, Carole Price, who had lost her son, John, to a tragic accidental shooting as he played at friend's house. Together they **took on the NRA** and passed Maryland's landmark safety trigger lock law, the first of its kind anywhere in the country.
- Chris is a leading supporter of the Protecting Domestic Violence and Stalking Victims Act to **close loopholes** that allow abusers and stalkers to access guns.

## As he's always done, Chris Van Hollen will work every day in the Senate to keep Maryland families safe

### Global Women's Issues

- Chris has been a **strong voice for women across the world**, from encouraging the State Department to include women in peace negotiations in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the Middle East, to supporting funding for access to education for girls in developing nations.

***Chris Van Hollen's effectiveness as a tireless advocate for Maryland women and families is what we need in our next U.S. Senator!***

[www.vanhollen.org](http://www.vanhollen.org)

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