

100 MARYLAND AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN LEADERS FOR CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

As African-American women and Maryland residents committed to the advancement of our county and state, we must support political candidates who are best positioned and suited to advance our aspirations. The selection of the candidates to fill the seat vacated by our stalwart U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski has caused us much soul-searching and emotional turmoil. We are mindful of our natural affinity with Chris Van Hollen's opponent and the paucity of racial and gender diversity in the U.S. Senate. But after thoughtful consideration and objective analysis of the track records of the candidates, our choice was obvious: we must support Chris Van Hollen. We did not make this decision lightly as no one should. Now that we've decided, we want to share with you our views and rationale:

1. Chris' tenure in the Maryland State Legislature and U.S. Congress reflects his consistency in "doing the right thing" in delivering results for the State of Maryland for education, veteran affairs, health care, civil rights and small businesses;
2. Chris showed unwavering support of President Obama while he played an important role in the passage of the Obama Administration's key initiatives – the Affordable Care Act, the Economy Recovery package, and the Wall Street Reform Bill;
3. As the top Democrat on the House Budget Committee, he has been highly effective in advancing the priorities we share and protecting the president against Tea Party attacks on his agenda, including efforts to defund Obamacare and Medicare;
4. Chris has also been able to work across the aisle with Republicans to find common ground where possible. He led the debate last winter to produce a bipartisan agreement to prevent another government shutdown -- something important to the country, but especially important to our local economy that depends on federal investments.
5. Chris fights for our young people; he has worked with legislators from Prince George's County and Baltimore to implement the Thornton Commission recommendations that addressed the inequality of education funding in our state, and to pass the largest increase in education funding in Maryland's history.

Please know that a comprehensive summary of Chris' record can be found at <http://vanhollen.org>.

Given the goals we have for the State of Maryland and our nation, we need a leader of high integrity and know-how who can work collaboratively to get things done. We simply must have a proven leader who can fill the gigantic footprints of Senator Barbara Mikulski. For every word used to describe and praise Barbara Mikulski's stellar performance, one could simply substitute Chris' name. Like her, Chris is touted as one of the Democrats' 'best budget minds.' *Roll Call*, the seminal authority on Congress,

notes "Van Hollen gets near-universal respect from his colleagues for his intellectual firepower and combination of policy and political chops."

As County Executives Rushern Baker and Ike Leggett, State Senator Joanne Benson and former Chair, Maryland Democratic Party Yvette Lewis said in their endorsement of Chris: "We support Chris Van Hollen, a person of courage and leadership who has a track record of getting things done and who has the ability to win friends and influence people. Chris forges deep and lasting relations with a diverse range of people and organizations, represents their interest and secures the critical resources that move Maryland forward. It is not about race, gender, creed or color, it is about a person. And that person is Chris Van Hollen."

We invite you to join with us in support of Chris Van Hollen as U.S. Senator from the State of Maryland and ask that you share this letter with your network and engage and secure their support. Our future is at stake!

Mozella Ademiluyi
Angela Anglin
Dorothy Avant
Jean Bailey
Shirley Peterson Barton
Bernice Beaird
Aaro Jean Bell-Reid
Jean Bowen
O'Dea Bowen-Hawkins
Gwendolyn Boyd
Ellen Brewer
Oretha Bridgewaters-Simms
Karen Britto
Paulette Burgess
Catherine Burrell
Yvette Butler
Judith Clark
Marilyn McPherson Corder
Thelma Daley
Okianer Christian Dark
Jannette L. Dates
Montina Anderson Davis
Donna Dean
June White Dillard
Judy Docca
Avis Mundy Dyson
Tosha Dyson
Michele Emergy
Virginia Embrey-Brock
Anita L. English
Shebra Evans

Susan Leggett Johnson
Jennifer Jones-Peoples
Sharon Key
Laura Knight
Frieda Lacy
Ethel Lanhorn
Gloria Gary Lawlah
Madeline Young Lawson
Catherine Leggett
Yvette Lewis
Sherlene Lucas
Antoinette Lyles
Vivian Malloy
Donna Mason
Claudette Milne
Marcia Milton
Gwen McCall
Landa McLaurin
Roberta McLeod-Reeves
Thelma Monk
Carrie Nelson
Roz Pelles
Linda Plummer
Anita Powell
Yolanda Pruitt
Jackie Rhone
Manervia W. Riddick
Thomasina V. Rogers
Ruby Ruben
Laurie-Anne Sayles
Odessa Shannon

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Ricki Fairley
Joyce Felder
DeeDee Freeman
Gene Gary-Williams
Edith Geddings
Pat Grant
Jacquelyn Dunmore Griffin
Artis Hampshire-Cowan
Esther Hankerson
Gina Harrell
Taylor Hawkins
Shirley Henderson
Karen Hendricks
Ola Hill
Tessa Hill-Aston
Jeanne Hitchcock
Glenda F. Hodges
Wilma Holmes
Elsie Jacobs

Norma Jenkins Stewart
Elizabeth Stroud
Andrea Syphax
Sylvia Syphax
Tracey Terrell
LaVonn Reedy Thomas
Maria Tilden
Veronica Turner
Gene Venable
Marie Wallace
Wanda Walters
Flavia Batteau Walton
Shawna Watley
Yaminah Leggett Wells
Jheanelle Wilkins
Glenda Wilson
Donna Wilson
Dorothy Wilson
Brenda Wolff