Jamila J. Woods
Legislative District 26
Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee
Criminal Subcommittee
Chair, Juvenile Subcommittee
Pubilc Safety Subcommittee

The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Dear Constituent,

As the **449th Legislative Session** comes to an end, thank you for your continued support and trust in me and my work in Annapolis. The successes that have occurred over the last four years would not have been possible without your input, partnership, and trust in my ability to represent you effectively. This session brought real challenges, but it also created opportunities for growth, strengthened my leadership, and deepened my commitment to serving you with purpose.

At the start of the 2026 session, following the appointment of a **new Speaker, Joseline Peña-Melnyk**—the first Afro-Latina woman elected to the Maryland General Assembly—made strategic and thoughtful changes to committee assignments, and I was among those reassigned.

Since taking office, I have worked diligently on the **Health and Government Operations Committee**, now referred to as the **Health Committee**. This session, I was appointed to the **Judiciary Committee** and selected to serve as **Chair of the Juvenile Subcommittee**. While the transition came as a surprise, I embraced it as an opportunity to lead in new ways and continue advocating for policies that improve lives across our state. In this role, I help guide discussions and decisions related to youth who come into contact with the justice system, including rehabilitation, diversion, detention practices, recidivism prevention, and support systems that help young people and families move forward. The work of the subcommittee is rooted in accountability, but also in intervention, prevention, and the belief that better outcomes are possible for our youth.

Additionally, I was appointed **Chair of the Law Enforcement Committee** within **the Prince George's County Delegation**, the second-largest delegation in the State of Maryland. As a social worker, my commitment has always been centered on people, especially our children, our youth, and the safety of our communities. I carried those values with me throughout this session. In this role, I help oversee legislation and policy matters related to public safety, law enforcement practices, community protection, and regulatory issues involving alcoholic beverages. This includes reviewing proposals related to policing, criminal justice policy, emergency response, enforcement standards, and alcohol licensing and compliance. It is a responsibility I take

seriously because these issues directly affect the safety, well-being, and quality of life of residents across Prince George's County and the State.

Beyond legislation, I continue to place great importance on building strong partnerships across our state and throughout the country. As a **State Director** for **Women in Government**, an organization committed to empowering women legislators and leaders, I have had the opportunity to connect with leaders from across the nation, learn from their work, and bring those insights back to better serve our communities. That perspective directly informed my work on a **Maternal Health Monitoring Pilot Program** within the **Maryland Department of Health**. This initiative is designed to support pregnant and postpartum Medicaid recipients who are at higher risk of complications due to hypertension or diabetes by providing remote patient monitoring tools and clinical support. Through this work, I helped bring attention to a critical gap in utilization. These services already exist, yet too many families and even providers remain unaware of them. By elevating this issue, we have created momentum toward greater awareness, improved access, and stronger support for families who need these resources.

Another initiative I have championed over the years is expanding **REAL ID** access for young people between the ages of **15 and 17**. Previously, individuals in this age group were required to have a parent or legal guardian sign on their behalf, creating unnecessary barriers to internships, fellowships, and workforce opportunities. This effort seeks to remove those barriers and create a more accessible pathway for young people to pursue opportunities that support their growth and independence. Although the legislation did not advance, the work behind it produced meaningful results and helped prompt changes that directly addressed the barriers the bill was meant to eliminate. By bringing attention to the issue, we were able to move solutions forward and create immediate impact.

During the **449th Legislative Session**, I was proud to **sponsor and co-sponsor more than 120 pieces of legislation** aimed at strengthening our communities and addressing the needs of Marylanders. This work reflects my continued commitment to expanding opportunity, improving systems, and ensuring that our most vulnerable residents are seen, heard, and supported. Among these efforts, I am especially proud to highlight several key pieces of legislation that reflect this mission and the impact we can make when we lead with purpose.

- **HB192/ SB208 Maryland Higher Education Commission - Religious Educational Institutions - Certificate of Approval**
  House Bill 192 addresses a significant and longstanding issue affecting religious institutions in Maryland by clarifying the rules for how certain religious educational institutions may operate. It ensures that qualifying institutions that provide instruction solely for religious purposes are not subjected to unnecessary approval requirements, while still preserving appropriate oversight for accredited institutions. In doing so, the bill

creates a fair framework that protects religious education, eases administrative burdens, and upholds educational standards.

- **HB769/ SB18 State Board of Social Work Examiners - Provisional License to Practice Social Work - Established**
  House Bill 769 addresses longstanding barriers within Maryland's social work licensing process that delay qualified individuals from entering the field and contribute to workforce shortages in communities already facing gaps in behavioral health services. By creating a provisional licensing pathway, the bill allows qualified individuals to begin practicing under supervision while completing their remaining licensure requirements. This approach helps expand Maryland's behavioral health workforce, increase access to opportunity, and maintain strong professional standards.

- **HB1058/ SB537 Youth Delinquency Prevention Fund - Establishment**
  House Bill 1058 establishes the Youth Delinquency Prevention Fund to invest in young people before they ever enter the justice system. In my work, I see how often support comes only after a crisis has already occurred. This legislation shifts that approach by investing in prevention and supporting community-based programs that provide mental health services, family stabilization, and youth development. It reflects a commitment to strengthening families and building safer communities through early support.

- **HB1290 Child in Need of Assistance - Proceedings - Child's Right to be Present**
  House Bill 1290 ensures that children in the child welfare system have a voice in the proceedings that shape their lives. As someone who grew up in foster care, this legislation is deeply personal to me. I understand what it feels like to have decisions made about your future without being present or heard. This bill affirms a child's right to be in the room while still allowing courts to prioritize their well-being when necessary. It is rooted in dignity, inclusion, and the belief that children deserve both protection and a voice in their own future.

- **HB1014/ SB707 Mental Health Law - Definition of Danger to the Life or Safety of the Individual or of Others (Right to Treatment)**
  House Bill 1014 clarifies the standard for involuntary mental health intervention so that individuals in need of treatment are not excluded simply because the danger they present is not narrowly defined as immediate. By providing clearer guidance for when emergency evaluation or involuntary admission is appropriate, the bill helps the system respond earlier and more effectively to serious mental health crises. This is important because too many people fall through the cracks not because help is unavailable, but because the law had not clearly defined when intervention can occur.

- **HB444/ SB245 Public Safety - Immigration Enforcement Agreements - Prohibition** House Bill 444 reinforces trust between communities and law enforcement by prohibiting State and local agencies from entering certain immigration enforcement agreements. At a time of growing concern around increased federal immigration enforcement, this legislation is especially important. In my conversations with residents, I see how fear and uncertainty can keep people from reporting crimes, seeking help, or accessing essential services. This bill helps ensure that public safety remains rooted in protection, trust, and access for all residents.

Beyond these legislative efforts, a critical part of our work this session was shaping a responsible and forward-looking State budget that supports the needs of our communities. The **Fiscal Year 2027** budget reflected both the challenges our state faced and the deliberate choices made to move Maryland forward responsibly. This year required difficult decisions as we worked to balance fiscal constraints, rising costs, and increasing demands across critical sectors. Despite these pressures, we remained focused on protecting essential services, supporting working families, and making targeted investments in education, public safety, and economic stability. Through collaboration and careful prioritization, this budget not only maintained fiscal discipline but also positioned our state for long-term growth and resilience.

For **District 26**, this budget represents meaningful progress. Millions of dollars in statewide investments will directly support improvements in education, infrastructure, workforce development, and community resources that residents rely on every day. In addition, significant investments in **energy efficiency** and **clean energy** initiatives will help ensure that our communities continue to grow in a way that is both sustainable and cost-conscious. When paired with our broader energy legislation, this work reflects a coordinated effort to strengthen reliability, manage long-term costs, and protect residents from future economic strain. It also reflects a continued commitment to delivering meaningful results for the communities we serve.

Over the last several months, I was honored to be recognized as **Legislator of the Year** by the **Mental Health Association of Maryland** on February 16, 2026, and received the **Outstanding Public Service Award** from **Champions for Children** on September 30, 2025. These recognitions reflect not only my work, but my continued commitment to advancing policies that support total human care and improve quality of life for individuals and families across our state. Moments like these also create space for reflection on the experiences that continue to shape and guide my work.

One of the most meaningful moments of this session for me was delivering **my Black History Month** address on the House floor. In that moment, I had the opportunity to honor **my fifth-generation great aunt, Harriet Tubman**. Her strength, compassion, and unwavering courage continue to guide my work each day. It was not only personal, but also a reminder that the work we do is connected to something greater than ourselves: a legacy of resilience, purpose, and collective progress.

None of this would be possible without the people who stand beside me every day. I am deeply grateful for my team, whose dedication and passion for service continue to strengthen the work we do. I want to especially recognize my **Chief of Staff, Dolapo Olomo**, my **Legislative Aide, Zipporah Sewell**, and my **intern, Lexi Sens**, whose commitment and passion have been instrumental throughout this session. I was especially proud to see each of my staff step forward to deliver testimony on my behalf. This reflects not only their growth, but also my commitment to mentorship and building the next generation of leaders. Above all, this work is grounded in my commitment to you.

In addition, I want to highlight the **Delegate Jamila Woods Legislative Scholarship**, which provides an important opportunity for students seeking financial support for their education. Eligible students are encouraged to apply by **April 30, 2026**, to be considered for the scholarship. More information about eligibility and the application process is available here: **https://forms.gle/AhzRJ3j5gj3r8vhw8.**

I also want to invite you to join me, along with the District 26 legislative team, for our **2026 Legislative Wrap-Up** on **Saturday, May 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Hillcrest Heights Community Center in Oxon Hill**. As we return from Annapolis, this will be an opportunity for me to share directly with you the work we accomplished during the 2026 legislative session, the issues that carried the greatest weight for our district, and what those outcomes mean for our families, neighborhoods, and future. I believe deeply that our work should never begin and end in Annapolis, which is why gatherings like this matter. They allow us to remain connected, create space for honest conversation, and ensure that you are informed, engaged, and part of the progress we are making together in District 26.

I am truly grateful for your continued support and trust. I remain committed to doing meaningful work on your behalf and look forward to what we will continue to accomplish together. It is always a pleasure to hear from you, whether you are sharing your concerns, your ideas, or the things you are proud of. Please continue to stay connected. You can reach me by email at **jamila.woods@house.maryland.gov**, in the community, or by calling my office **at (410) 841-3544**. I also encourage you to **subscribe to my newsletter** to stay informed and engaged with the work we are doing on your behalf.

In Service,

Delegate Jamila J. Woods
Maryland House of Delegates
District 26 – Prince George's County